

FRONTISPIECE.



Op. Fedora or the Forest of Minski.

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P H E D O R A.



IN FOUR VOLUMES.



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P H E D O R A;

O R,

The Forest of Ginski.

A NOVEL.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

B Y

MARY CHARLTON. — K

“ To build, to plant, whatever you intend,
“ To rear the column, or the arch to bend,
“ To swell the terrace, or to sink the grot;
“ In all, let Nature never be forgot.
“ But treat the goddess like a modest fair,
“ Nor over-dress, nor leave her wholly bare.”

POPE.

VOL. I.

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THE BRITISH MUSEUM



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P H E D O R A.

CHAP. I.

“ Heavy of heart she seems, and sore afflicted :

“ Sure, or I read her visage much amiss,

“ Or grief besets her hard.” —

ON the eastern border of a fine lake, which communicates by the river Embeck with the lakes Peipus and Worsero, was situated a Livonian village, whose peasantry, in the latter end of the last century, subsisted by the cultivation of flax and hemp, which their women and children assisted in dressing.

VOL. I.

B

Amidst

Amidst the small cottages, which marked the poverty and simplicity of the inhabitants, that of the widow Eudocia Rubenski was the most humble, and exhibited the strongest appearance of indigence. Her son and only child, who had been torn from her by the desolating hand of war, had fallen in the field, and left his wife and mother a prey to the bitterest affliction, aggravated by all the horrors of absolute want.

In this scene of misery the little fatherless Phedora first saw the light. Her mother laboured with unremitting industry to support her child and the aged parent of her lost husband; but his returning image ever mixed with her toil, and embittered every moment that should have been given to repose: her soul, divided between unabating tenderness for his memory, and affection for all that remained of him below, his infant daughter, lingered out ten years of existence after the stroke which for ever separated them in this world; she then breathed her last in the tears

arms of the widow Rubenski, amidst the tears and lamentations of Phedora. This fatal event almost levelled the aged matron with the dust ; and but for the assistance and support of her neighbours, she must have perished with united grief and famine.

The little Phedora had been associated in her mother's labours about a year ; and upon the industry and gains of this infant, who had scarcely seen ten winter's snows, now depended the principal support of the ill-fated Eudocia Rubenski. For some time the attention of the surrounding cottagers supplied those wants the mother of Phedora had been used to administer to : but, alas ! the first effusions of pity and compassion soon abate of their fervor ; and a steady continuance of disinterested good offices and generous commiseration, are not the result of a casual though irresistible feeling, which accident may suddenly create, but a genuine branch of that liberal and extensive charity so divinely taught.

The minister of a village, at the distance of about a mile, had buried the mother of Phedora ; for the spot where she resided was too inconsiderable to boast a pastor or distinct place of worship : at her interment every bosom was yet swelling with compassion for the fate of the orphan child and the aged matron, and the priest was informed of the sad tale.—He was a good man, very poor, was married, (for he was a Lutheran) and had a family ; yet he contrived to spare a small donation to the helpless creatures whose destiny appeared so lamentable, and accompanied it with his blessing. The story, roughly as it had been told, deeply impressed his feelings, and he could not forget it : Eudocia Rubenski and her grandchild still remained in his mind's eye ; and he would not with more compunction have disappointed his rustic flock of their Sunday prayers, than have neglected the most distant opportunity of saving this poor widow and the little orphan.

They

They felt their loss with a poignancy of grief which the age of the one and the infancy of the other could not blunt : but their sorrow was not of that selfish kind which gushed for meaner considerations ; the immediate kindness of their fellow cottagers had prevented them from experiencing all the horrors of their desolate situation—they wept from disappointed affection and the tenderest regret.

In a few days Phedora resumed her employment of watching the flax spread out to bleach ; but in the early morning she went forth, as in the life of her mother, to seek fuel for the day : then, having set before the widow Rubenski her first meal, she traced her usual footsteps to the flax grounds, and took her post. She was by nature gay and lively, but misfortune had checked her cheerful frolics, and her voice was no longer raised to emulate the birds that sung around her : her little face was full of care, and already had the anxieties of this world chased

away the sports of childhood, with all its ready smiles and joys : still, however, she tasted a transport of which adversity had not yet bereft her, when on Saturday evening she received her pittance for the week. It was inadequate to the wants of her only surviving parent and herself ; but the deficiency was made up by the casual benefactions of the neighbours, or the charitable donations of the minister, whose compassion never failed to impel him to an act he could very ill afford, whenever the little orphan presented herself at the Sunday devotions.

It was at this period that Livonia again became an object of contention to those powers, to whom she had been alternately subjected for some centuries, and the peasants daily dreaded a visit from the soldiery of either state, who foraged round the adjoining country without intermission ; but the apparent poverty and insignificance of the village had hitherto sheltered it from depredation, and the storms which fell so heavy
upon

upon their more opulent neighbours, were by them heard of before they were immediately felt. Phedora had listened to details of oppression, committed by these licenced plunderers, until she shuddered with the apprehension of beholding them rush forth as she watched the flax grounds, to seize her in her retreat, which was the hollow of an old tree, where she constantly retired to shelter herself from the inclemencies of the weather; and, during the summer, from the scorching heat of the meridian sun, rendered almost insupportable from the hot and sandy nature of the soil. To this place of refuge she now resorted, more frequently from fear than necessity: her little person was squeezed into the narrowest compass, that it might escape observation, and her blue eyes were sent abroad in search of the dreaded foe; but day after day passed by, and nothing extraordinary occurring, she began to lose her terrors; when the glittering of bayonets, that seemed to rise out of a neighbouring copse, made her fly with precipitation to her

hiding place. From an opening in the bark of the tree she beheld a party of soldiers approaching, and their resolute air, martial step and shining arms, overwhelmed the little observer with surprize and consternation. As they drew near she withheld her breath to listen to their conversation; for she saw them, with encreasing dismay, point to her village. The little thatched roofs were almost entirely concealed by a large clump of firs, but the place was easily discerned by the blue smoke that stole upwards in wavy columns, and mixed with the purer ether.—“It is probable that they have corn,” said the leader of the troop, a young man who did not appear to be more than eighteen;—“but, if we are disappointed there,” he added, “we must proceed to those villages further to the right.” These terrible words threw Phedora into an agony of apprehension; for the good minister had sent the widow Rubenski a small supply of corn from his own moderate store, and Phedora was that very evening to carry part of it to be ground.

ground. She trembled for this treasure, and wept to think her grandmother would want for bread should it be taken from her.

When the party was at some distance from her, she flew to the village by another path, in the hope of being able to arrive time enough to hide the corn before they would be there to seek it. As she ran she looked on each side of her with trepidation, lest some straggling soldier should arrest her steps; she stooped a moment at the entrance of the village, to listen to each passing sound; but a transient glance of one of the unwelcome visitors, who stood centinel under an old cedar within a dozen paces of her, again urged her flight, and she rushed with astonishing rapidity towards her grandmother's habitation. The wild expression of terror her countenance exhibited, and a something in her figure which irresistibly caught attention, induced the young subaltern who conducted the expedition, and whom she had passed in her flight, to follow her with

his eye until the cottage door closed upon her. The next moment it was forced open by some soldiers, and before their officer could reach them, they had made a successful search, and added the widow's mite to their spoil. Phedora in a flood of tears followed them out, and represented with artless simplicity her desolate state; grief and anxiety had banished her terrors, and still pursuing their steps, "You have taken from us all we have," she exclaimed, wringing her hands, "and for five days we must be without bread. Cruel men! must my poor grandmother die?—She cannot work as my own mother did!—The officer heard the expostulation, and was uttering an indulgent reply, when the widow Rubenski with a slow and faltering step, advanced to the little Phedora, and pressing her in her arms, besought him to forgive the innocent effusions of a child who knew not what she said.—"Her father," continued she with a heavy sigh, "was a soldier; but his daughter is not acquainted with the painful duties, the
hard

hard tasks assigned them."—As she spoke she surveyed the young man she addressed with a mournful solemnity: his dress, his air,—nay, so far had imagination wrought, that even his countenance reminded her of those whom the grave had long devoured: he too, was unable to behold the venerable pleader without reverence and compassion. She was one of those figures which command respect and attention, even in the most abject of situations; sorrow had deepened the touches of age upon her features, nor was a pallid impression of sickness wanting to finish a portrait, that could scarcely fail to dash an observing eye with the hasty unbidden tear.

The soldiers instantly received orders from their commander to restore whatever they had taken from the cottage, and, however reluctant, they did not dare to disobey.—The corn was replaced, and the young man, putting a half ruble into the hand of the

joyful Phedora, walked off without waiting to observe the effect of his beneficence.

When the village was cleared of the intruders, the peasants, many of whom had fled at their approach, returned to their rifled dwellings, and examined into their several losses; they were found to be grievous enough; and, when completely ascertained, their next consideration was to learn how far their neighbours had been fellow-sufferers. The widow Rubenski's good fortune was a source of much surprise and some envy; her portion of the general misfortune, they all agreed, would have been so inconsiderable! whilst all the surrounding cottagers complained not only of the deprivation of their stores of corn, but of honey, fowls, and some sheep, their most valuable property.— The event, however, proved equally unfortunate to Phedora and her grandmother; for it could not be supposed that the hearts of the peasants were much visited by compassionate attention to the wants of others, whilst

whilst unwonted misery and penury pressed so heavily upon themselves. From this period, therefore, the worthy pastor was their only resource ; and he, too, felt severely the inconveniences and hardships resulting from the concussion of two mighty powers, who spread the jarring shock with irresistible devastation, through the land for which each contended. The mind of the widow Rubenski was not framed to extort aid from the compassionate hand, which the voice of prudence vainly endeavoured to close :—She could suffer in silence ; and from her example Phedora learnt patience and resignation, a lesson that words alone can never teach.

Some time after this circumstance, the good minister, whose name was Leuhaupt, having occasion to go to a neighbouring town, made known the situation of the widow and her orphan grandchild, to a noble and worthy family who respected his virtues, and, but for the singular humility and rectitude of his soul, which impelled him to de-

cline their services, they would not have suffered him to remain at the obscure village where his destiny had originally fixed him.— For himself he would never accept what their beneficence had often tendered ; but for others, still more oppressed by necessity, he was not ashamed to ask their bounty. They did not constantly reside in Livonia, and were now preparing to quit it till peace should again smile upon the land : but they found time to listen to the narrative of the good Leuhaupt, which awakened the pity of his noble friends ; and, after some consultation, he was desired to convey to them the little Phedora, whom they resolved to protect and maintain : with the widow they could not burthen themselves, on their journey, which was to be performed with rapidity, that they might not lose the benefit of being escorted by a party of military, travelling the same route : she was therefore to remain in the protection of the minister, who readily undertook to be their almoner, and

and pay her a small pension till their return to their Livonian possessions.

Mr. Leuhaupt, charmed with the success of his application, scarcely allowed himself time to adjust the transaction, which had brought him from his home, from his extreme haste to communicate the welcome news to the objects of his benevolence.— When he arrived at his own house, Mrs. Leuhaupt first suggested to him the possible objection both parent and child might entertain against a separation which did not promise to be of short duration. The good pastor could allow for the weaker affections of humanity, and became extremely anxious to learn the sentiments of the widow Rubenski upon the plan proposed. The next day was Sunday, and his official duty prevented him from walking to her cottage: the little Phedora appeared not with her fellow villagers at church, and Mr. Leuhaupt rightly judged that her grandmother detained the child, that she might not betray to him the aggravated misery it distressed his narrow circumstances

cumstances to relieve. He sent, however, some bread and dried fish by a neighbour, with the promise of a visit the next morning.

Never had the good man's charity been more acceptable or better bestowed : the widow Rubenski, sick and languid, had not tasted bread that day, and Phedora, when the messenger entered, was sitting on the ground at the feet of her unhappy parent, hiding her face upon her knees, that her tears might not be seen to flow. The child raised herself as the door opened, and uttered an exclamation of joy when she beheld the welcome gift. The widow shook her head, and faintly smiling, " Ah, generous being ! " she internally said, on hearing the words of Mr. Leuhaupt : " yet why am I compelled to take what you can so ill afford to give ? " Phedora felt no scruples on the subject, nor indeed did she observe the reluctant countenance of her grandmother, so earnestly had her involuntary fast made her wish to profit without

without delay of the bounty of her dear Mr. Leuhaupt.

On the following day he called at their cottage, according to his intimation, and, half fearing to mention the proposed separation between the poor widow and her orphan, he ushered in the designs of his noble friends with every commendation upon the excellence of their characters, which he thought would calm the fond fears of the parent, at parting with the only child of her deceased son, for a term so indefinite and apparently long. The venerable Rubenski listened to him with attention and respect; but when he talked of committing Phedora to the care of people, of whom she had never before heard, she clasped her hands in sudden agony and burst into tears. "Now, indeed," she exclaimed, "do I feel the cruel sting of helpless poverty; this is most bitter to my soul! Rubenski," she continued, raising her eyes, "thy child is about to quit my arms; but it is for her benefit, and I submit."

Mr.

Mr. Leuhaupt was much affected by this apostrophe; he knew not if it would be better to relinquish the proposal, or urge her by persuasive reasoning, to think of it with more composure. Phedora, mean time, who had hitherto been absent, now entered the cottage, and flew towards the good man with the most lively gratitude dancing in her eyes; but on observing that her grandmother wept, she suddenly stopt, and looking at Mr. Leuhaupt with a doubtful expression of countenance, silently crept to her beloved parent, and clinging round her, wept likewise.—He viewed them both with encreasing compassion, and felt all the distress his humane zeal had created. As he was considering in what manner to renew the subject, the widow Rubenski made an effort to suppress her sorrow, and kissing the cheek of Phedora, informed her of the advantageous situation their worthy Mr. Leuhaupt had procured for her; but, on the little girl learning that she must quit her village and the only natural friend she had, rejected, what in her eyes no longer appeared

peared a kindness, with a firmness of denial that, from one so young, surprised both her grandmother and Mr. Leuhaupt. She would stay, she said, to fetch fuel from the wood, to clean the cottage, and comfort her parent when she was sorrowful ; and, when she was a few years older, she could earn six copecks a day, and buy more bread and warmer cloathing for winter. Mr. Leuhaupt attempting to reason with her, promised to take care of the good widow, and represented that she would not be left destitute. Phedora, for the first time, would scarcely listen to what he said, and earnestly began to reply ; but finding she could not express, as she wished, all that she meant to urge, she burst into a fresh flood of tears, and throwing herself into the arms of her grandmother, protested that she would never leave her.

Mr. Leuhaupt felt unwilling to oppose the principle which dictated the child's refusal, and, equally unable to withstand the effusions

effusions of tenderness he witnessed, he calmed the little Phedora, by promising that she should not be compelled to accept the intended kindness of his friends. He then presented two rubles to the widow Rubenski, as part of the pension they meant to allow her, and said she was to receive the same sum from his hands every month, until the return of her benefactors to Livonia. She feared the objections of Phedora to accompany those worthy people, might, perhaps, offend them, and diminish their inclination to serve her; and wished, therefore, to decline their bounty until Mr. Leuhaupt had informed them of the circumstance; but he dissipated her apprehensions, and forced her to accept the money.

Small as the sum was, it satisfied her wishes; for they had long been contracted to the narrowest compass: but, though her fondness for her grandchild was gratified by the strong disinclination she expressed to quit her, her better judgment forced her to regret

gret it, when she revolved in her anxious mind all the advantages her acquiescence might have produced to her. Phedora, on the contrary, careless of the future, and delighted with the present, made the plain again resound with her wild carols, and envied not even the children of Mr. Leuhaupt, when on a holyday they past her in a sledge, flying over the beaten snow with the quickness of the wind. They were scarcely better cloathed than herself, it was true, and quite as humble, both from the natural bent of their dispositions, and the constant precepts of their father; but, though he was a man of strict virtue, he had many of the amiable weaknesses of human nature hanging about his heart, and never checked their happy frolics when they were entirely innocent, and sometimes even heightened their delights by condescending to participate in them.

Phedora was often detained on Sunday until the evening, at the house of this worthy man, to partake of the mild and pious instructions

structions his family were wont to listen to : here she quickly became an universal favorite ; for the pliancy and sprightliness of her temper, and the unbounded gratitude she manifested to every part of the family of her benefactor, won all their hearts, and the young people soon found their way to the cottage of her grandmother. Mr. Leuhaupt had written to his noble friends of his disappointment, in not being able to persuade the little orphan to quit her grandmother : as he had foreseen, they applauded her sensibility, and even granted a small addition to the pension of the widow, who could now, with a calmer mind, contemplate the opening features, and cultivate the growing, though humble virtues of her darling Phedora.

Dame Rubenski, poor and helpless as she was, generally escaped the insults which pride and folly, ignorance and presumption tempt man to heap upon his fellows ; because the meek patience that sat upon her brow

brow, was too deeply characterised to admit of the probability of that resistance which stimulates malice to outrage. Her afflicted, though placid mein, her steady yet sorrowing features, seemed to proclaim, that she had felt all the humiliation which the taunts of pride and power could inflict; and, to wound a spirit already vanquished, like stabbing the wretch whom the hand of death has before levelled to the earth, is a wanton cruelty which the most malignant are ashamed of practising. Mr. Leuhaupt imagined that she had seen better days: even when she had most cause for complaint, her grief was never clamorous, but deep and silent:—she obtruded not her misfortune upon the notice of those around her, but rather shrunk from observation: her manners, though unaffectedly humble, her deportment and language, distinguished her from those with whom she had lived many years, almost unremarked, but by the superior calamities which had visited her: but, above all, her gratitude for the benefits the good minister had

had conferred upon her, though it scarcely broke into words, was singularly marked and most impressive. Yet, however strong might be the suspicions of Mr. Leuhaupt, nature had not qualified him to wrest an unwilling confidence from a person whose necessities he had relieved; and his conjectures were therefore still very likely to remain unsatisfied.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

“ What cannot be preserv’d, when fortune takes,
“ Patience her injury a mockery makes.”

AMIDST the occupations of Phedora, was one from which no amusement, (delightful though it might be to her imagination) no sports, could withdraw her attention : before the cottage of her grandmother flourished a beautiful cedar, which her deceased son had planted in his youth ; and of all things inanimate dame Rubenski most prized this tree. Whilst the mother of Phedora lived, she fostered it with care, and often braved the bitter blast to free it from the despoiling insect ; the child, thus taught from her infancy to venerate the favoured cedar, became equally attached to it, and, climbing the stem, would often creep from branch to branch to pluck off the dead wood and see that all was well.

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Phedora, returning one evening from Mr. Leuhaupt's house, where she had been unusually gay and happy, on approaching the dwelling of her grandmother, looked, as it was her general custom, for the forked branches of her cedar which waved over the thatched roof, and could be perceived long before the cottage chimney appeared in view ; but her eyes wandered over the well known spot in vain : she could plainly discern the clump of pines at the entrance of the village, and the double row that marked out the road beyond it, but the cedar had unaccountably disappeared. The summer was now nearly past, and Phedora had begged of Mr. Leuhaupt a bundle of straw to place round the roots of her tree, to preserve it from the sudden frosts, and had applauded herself all the way for the pleasure her precaution would give to her grandmother : the good minister's elder boys, who accompanied Phedora, had each assisted to carry the gift home for her ; but no sooner did she miss the cherished object of her care, than

than she uttered an exclamation of surprize, and darted forward ; the young Leuhaupts followed with great velocity, and two minutes brought them all to dame Rubenski's cottage door. Here Phedora found all her doubts explained and her fears verified ; for the poor cedar was extended on the plain, and two men were yet busy in lopping off the branches she had nurtured with so much care. Surprise, grief, and indignation chained her tongue, but her eyes flowed at a sight so cruel : her young companions threw down their useless burthen, and animated to resentment by the tears of their little favorite, roughly demanded of the woodmen if they had felled the tree by the command of dame Rubenski ; but not obtaining an immediate answer, the elder Leuhaupt proceeded to hostilities, by seizing a stake and applying it boldly to the back of one of the peasants, whilst the younger boy pelted them both with stones. They immediately turned upon the assailants, and were preparing to avenge themselves with some severity, when the

screams of Phedora brought her grandmother to the door of her cottage, whose entreaties subdued the rage of the aggressed, though her appearance inspired the youthful champions with fresh inclination for the combat : a more than usual sadness marked her countenance, and the drops that still hung upon her cheeks, made way for others when she unavoidably turned her eyes towards the fallen object of contention. She gently reproved the boys for their impetuosity, and desiring the men to proceed with their work, re-entered her cottage, followed by her grandchild and the two delinquents.

Phedora, who could not comprehend why her venerable parent sanctioned an action so sacrilegious as that of demolishing the beloved tree, stood before her with a face of enquiry, whilst the young Leuhaupts, ashamed of having incurred reproof from one who so seldom bestowed it, waited in silence to be dismissed. " My little friends," said the widow Rubenski, " I thank you for
your

your mistaken kindness, whilst I lament it ; but learn, my dear children, that violence should never be permitted to govern our actions, or over-rule our judgment ; when it is successful it becomes cruelty and oppression, and when, as now, it is unavailing, it provokes further mischief, and an aggravation of the injury already received, when it deprives the injured of the compassion and succour of the moderate and the worthy.— Believe me, Phedora, I felt every stroke of the axe which levelled our poor cedar, the only remaining vestige of my son's youthful actions ; he planted it when a boy scarcely older than you are now, and reared it as fondly as you have preserved it ; but it is in vain for poverty to contend against wealth and power. Ulric Stenau, when he passed this way, marked the tree, and ordered that it should be felled : by submitting with patience I escape further persecution, which unavailing resistance and complaint might perhaps draw upon me. But it becomes late—return to your home, my dear boys,

and do not repeat to any other than your parents, what you have now heard me utter. Adieu my dear Charles, adieu Ivan,—remember my request.”

When they were gone, Phedora and her grandmother wept together. In the imagination of the widow Rubenski, this incident had keenly revived the death of her son; and the helpless, friendless misery, to which her own dissolution would leave his child, equally dear to her heart, wrung it with anguish.—Her only hope rested in the benevolent kindness of Mr. Leuhaupt; but she was acquainted with his scanty circumstances, and knew that he could only recommend the little Phedora to the charity of others, who might not possess his tender commiseration for her orphan state, or win her gratitude by such gentle compassion as he had ever shewn to her.

Phedora soon forgot her sorrows in a peaceful slumber, which the toils and sports of the day never failed to procure her: not
so

so her aged parent, who hung over her as she slept, and prayed and wept by turns, long after the cruel strokes of the wood-cutters were no longer heard.

The good minister called the next day to console the poor widow and her little girl, under the act of oppression they so peculiarly felt. Phedora had just returned home, and was relating to her grandmother, with every mark of affliction in her face, that she had met the dreaded Ulric Stenau, who had severely rebuked her for pelting his labourers with stones, and molesting them in their business: he had even threatened to employ her no longer in the flax grounds which belonged to him, and the poor child, terrified at his menaces, had in vain begged his forgiveness:—he refused to grant it, unless she discovered to him the unlucky boys who had, jointly with her, offended him; for they happened not to be known to the two peasants, who lived in a village at a small distance. Mr. Leuhaupt heard the recital, and

undertook to pacify the resentment of this petty tyrant, whose possessions comparatively great, gave him infinite consequence with his poor neighbours, whom he oppressed with impunity, because he had obtained the favour and confidence of the lord of the district in which he dwelt.

Ulric listened to the good minister with a sort of haughty condescension; and learning that his sons were the culprits against whom his wrath had been inflamed, he pardoned them with a mighty effort, and promised to think no more of the obstinate perseverance of the little Rubenski in concealing their names. The conclusion of this important affair, which had in a great measure diverted the attention of Phedora from her fallen cedar, relieved the poor widow from the apprehensions she had not unjustly entertained, of the revenge the malignant Ulric might think proper to take upon the family of the Leuhaupts; who now again, with their usual gaiety, sought their little orphan companion,

panion, and made her partake in all their sports.

But these were at length interrupted by a malady which art had not yet robbed of its terrors: the family of the minister sickened one after another, and he discovered that the small-pox had seized them. The winter had suddenly set in with more than common rigour, and Mr. Leuhaupt had not the means of procuring aid from any of the neighbouring towns. Thus situated, and placing confidence in the mercy of heaven, the good man endeavoured to recollect the manner in which he had formerly seen the malady treated in Poland, where he had once been; and following the plan as nearly as he was able, directed the cares of his terrified wife, and gave the little sufferers all his own attention. He forgot not, however, to send to Phedora, to desire that she might not come near them; and the widow Rubenski, distracted between her apprehensions for the safety of her child, and a sense of the

gratitude she owed her benefactors, knew not how to permit her to see them, or resist her tears and entreaties to be suffered to attend her little sick friends: the anxious parent was aware how useful her activity and attention would render her in the family she so much loved; but to expose her to a danger so imminent, was more than she could endure to think of. She would have traversed the frozen snow herself, and left her beloved grandchild to the care of a neighbour, but her limbs refused the effort; and when she had advanced an hundred paces, she was brought back almost motionless with cold and fatigue.

In two days she learnt that one of the younger children was dead, and that the terrors of the peasantry, overcoming their affection for their pastor, made them refuse to enter his dwelling, though they continued to supply him with provisions; but they were deposited at so great a distance from the house, that he could scarcely afford

afford as much time from his attendance upon his surviving children, as was requisite to fetch them. On hearing this circumstance, Phedora was no longer to be restrained from flying to assist her benefactor in distress; she ran with precipitation towards the hamlet he inhabited, and the voice of her affrighted parent, who called to her to return, had lost its wonted influence over her. She arrived at Mr. Leuhaupt's house, breathless and disordered: the swiftness of her motion had not preserved her from the effects of the bitter wind which blew in her face, and froze her tears as they would have fallen from it; her fingers had lost all motion, and were unable to raise the latch of the door, and her tongue faltered when she would have called aloud. Fearful of becoming useless to the beloved friends she meant to serve, if she remained much longer in the cold, she stepped back a few paces from the door, and throwing herself forward, pushed against it with all the strength that yet remained in her. In a few moments Mr. Leu-

haupt appeared, who started on beholding his little favorite. His first impulse was to make her return home instantly, that she might not imbibe the contagious air he breathed; but, on observing that she was stiff and almost lifeless, for she had forgotten to put on an additional covering when she left her own roof, he was compelled to take her in that she might not perish by the inclemency of the weather. His pale and anxious countenance did not escape the notice of Phedora, who wept bitterly, but dared not enquire which of her little play-fellows he had lost;—she would have entered their apartment, but he commanded her to desist with an earnest gravity that enforced her unwilling submission; and having hastily kindled a fire in the outward chamber, he desired her to remain there whilst he sought out some furs, which his children had not worn since the last winter. He meant to wrap her in them and send her home immediately, in the hope that she might not have yet caught the infection; but in his absence Mrs. Leu-
haupt

haupt came to seek him, as she was alarmed at a sudden alteration in one of her girls.— Phedora flew into her arms, and besought her with eager entreaties to let her see her dear companions. It happened that Catherine, the eldest daughter, had been importuning the fond mother to the same effect; and almost stupified with fatigue, sorrow, and long watchfulness, she thought not of the probable consequences of her compliance, and led the little orphan to the bed where her two girls lay. Sophia, the younger, was nearly insensible, but Catherine knew her beloved Phedora, and was transported with joy at beholding her once again. They embraced each other with fondness, and at this moment Mr. Leuhaupt having missed his charge, entered the room in search of her. He appeared exceedingly vexed and displeased, and was going to lead her away, when a deep sigh from Sophia caught his attention; a short convulsion followed, the sound, and in spite of every effort of each unhappy parent, the child expired in a few minutes.

The

The good man struggled against his grief, and exhorted his wife to exert herself to overcome this second blow, and save, if possible, the dear little beings who yet remained to them. Phedora participated in their anguish, with all the warmth of natural benevolence and particular affection, and when Mr. Leuhaupt had a little recovered his recollection, she so earnestly implored that he would let her stay and assist him, that he found it impossible to refuse her petition. He considered that the danger he had wished her to avoid, must have been already incurred, and as he could not by persuasion prevail on her to return, and she would not suffer him to retract the consent she had extorted from him by prayers and tears, he sent her into the village, to commission one of the peasants to inform her grandmother of the circumstance; and to beg that she might be attended to in the absence of Phedora, by her female neighbours.

The

The grateful girl now became infinitely useful to her benefactor :—she procured the provisions, brought in the fuel from the out-house, and thawed the liquids for the use of the family. When all this was performed, she attended the invalids, and much relieved the solicitude of their mother, who was sinking with fatigue : Their united efforts, however, could not save the second boy Charles, who followed his younger brother and sister to the grave. Mrs. Leuhaupt was now almost in despair : of five children, three were already taken from her, and Ivan, her eldest son, was yet in great danger.—Phedora redoubled her assiduity to her little surviving friends ; she soothed them when they were fretful, and listened to their complaints with gentleness and patience.—The good minister possessed only such medicines as he had gathered and cured himself ; these Ivan would only take from the hands of Phedora, who presented them with an air so persuasive, that all distaste and aversion vanished before it.

Catherine

Catherine soon regained her health and strength ; but the recovery of her brother was for some time doubtful :—he tenderly lamented the loss of Charles, who was old enough to be the partner of his boyish sports, and whose death he had unavoidably been made acquainted with. At length, however, his extreme youth, joined to an excellent constitution, overcame the shock, and his parents, who had experienced the most dreadful apprehensions for his life, felt more reconciled to their fate, when they conceived hopes that their beloved Ivan would be spared to them : not because they had less affection for the children they had lost, or for the daughter who survived ; but from the nature of man, who, when agitated by the despair arising from the prospect of losing what he most values, feels more gratefully the unexpected recovery of any part of his treasure, than if he had remained in uninterrupted possession of the whole. Mr. and Mrs. Leuhaupt were besides supported, under the affliction it had pleased heaven to visit

visit on their heads, by habitual piety ; and when the first burst of grief was past, they received the evil with decent resignation, and the good with the most unbounded gratitude.

This worthy pair now turned their attention towards Phedora, whose conduct and singular attachment had entirely won their tenderest affection :—they trembled for her safety, and Mrs. Lauhaupt incessantly reproached herself with the imprudence which had exposed her to a danger they had so much reason to dread. The widow Rubenski, in the absence of her child, had been tortured by the most painful apprehensions ; she daily heard indeed, that Phedora had been seen in the minister's hamlet, performing her little services for the family with unabating alacrity, and this intelligence alone supported her existence. But when death with his too ready dart, no longer hovered immediately over the house of Mr. Leuhaupt, he conducted the beloved girl to her
anxious

anxious parent, who conjured him to inform her if the danger was past. He hesitated, for it was yet only eight days since Phedora had flown to him to offer her grateful services, and endeavoured to evade the question by dwelling on the praises of his little assistant. Dame Rubenski observed that he did not reply to her question, and though her mind was not to be diverted from what solely occupied it, she forbore to distress the good man, by urging him further. He requested that Phedora might return with him to accomplish her charitable work, by entirely re-establishing the health of her young friends, which he said her sprightly conversation would much contribute to : but in reality he made the proposal with a view of watching over her, until his hopes or fears were realized ; and should the worst happen, that she might at least have the benefit of those well-earned cares, his wife and himself would be so anxious to bestow upon her.

It

It was with difficulty the poor widow consented to this second separation ; but Mr. Leuhaupt urged that the child would not incur any further danger, and promised that she should return in three or four days, after which she should only visit him occasionally as before. All the benefits which the worthy minister had conferred upon herself and her orphan girl, crowded to the mind of dame Rubenski, and extorted a reluctant consent : but before Phedora would leave the village, she stepped to the cottage of the woman who had attended to her grandmother, and embracing her with affection, offered to her acceptance half a copeck, which was all her hoarded treasure, and having forced the gift upon the honest peasant, conjured her to continue her cares until her return.

The widow Rubenski wept when Mr. Leuhaupt led her away, and having looked after them till her sight failed, she sat all desolate

folate and forlorn, giving way to her dejected apprehensions.

Ivan and Catherine were transported that their dear little nurse had returned to them ; for they feared that her grandmother would have detained her ; and their caresses gave equal delight to Phedora. On the following day Mr. Leuhaupt watched her countenance with encreasing anxiety, but she discovered not any symptoms of indisposition, and the next to that was quite as favourable ; he therefore began to hope that she might have escaped the infection, and with a lightened heart sent to inform the widow Rubenski of the welfare of her child. The three days elapsed, and the face of Phedora was still animated with health, and her spirits unoppressed ; but Mr. Leuhaupt could not yet feel entirely at ease, and returning with her to her grandmother's dwelling, ventured to ask her indulgence for another short term.— Dame Rubenski on beholding her gay and cheerful as ever, found her own spirits revive, and

and almost assured that all danger was past, she could not resist the pressing entreaties of Mr. Leuhaupt, however her affection might repine at the sacrifice. Her compliance was amply rewarded by the continued health of Phedora, who had thus willingly paid her debt of gratitude at the hazard of her life, and yet so providentially preserved it, to soothe the declining years of her venerable parent.

The affection which Ivan and Catherine had formerly entertained for their lost brother and sister, seemed now to have centered in the little orphan; and Mrs. Leuhaupt, fully convinced that to her cares she owed the life of her son, regarded her with a fondness proportionate to the tender value at which she estimated his preservation.—At her request, united to that of her husband, the widow Rubenski removed to their hamlet, and from that time the young Leuhaupts and Phedora became inseparable.—The good minister would no longer suffer her

to work in the flax grounds ; and declaring that he adopted her in the place of his Sophia, gave to her the instructions his deceased child had been accustomed to receive.

When the rigour of the long frost abated, and the earth was sufficiently softened to admit the pickaxe and the spade, Mr. Leuhaupt began the sad office of uniting to their native dust, all those who had been cut off in the course of the winter. Amongst these were his three babes, whose bodies had been committed to the building appointed to receive the dead, whilst the season forbade this last act of humanity.*—Every afflicting remembrance was then renewed, and again was every heart torn by wounded affection.—Mrs. Leuhaupt alternately mourned her loss, and thanked heaven for the blessings which were yet spared to her : she followed her deceased children to the grave, accompanied by Ivan and Cathe-

* Vide Customs and Manners of Russia, Livonia, &c.

rine, and when the earth covered them from her view, shed a silent flood of tears, but she without those emotions of passionate sorrow which nature dictates in despite of reason. Phedra was not permitted to be present at the mournful solemnity, causelessly to tempt the danger she had so wonderfully escaped, but she peeped through the half-open door, as her afflicted friends passed near her cottage, and joined in the grief they could not restrain.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

“ Within the grafs, conceal’d, a serpent lies.”

AS the warm season approached, the young people forgot their recent sorrow, and delighted with the sudden-verdure of the fields, and the flowers which sprung up almost instantaneously beneath their feet, they enjoyed with keen and animated pleasure the cheering influence of the sun.

Near the hamlet was a wood of fir-trees, chiefly appropriated to the preservation of honey, which formed part of the possessions of some of the richer peasants.—The bees are not, as in the more southern countries, kept in hives, and fostered near the cottages, but are suffered to deposit the fruits of their labour in trees,* whose branches are lopped off from the base nearly to the top, where

* Vide Appendix to Voltaire’s History of Russia.

the bees form their nest, which is pretty well defended both from man and beast by a rough wood-work encircling the stem of the tree at a considerable height ; yet thus secured they are not always unattainable.—Ivan Leuhaupt, whose activity no obstacle could restrain, was much delighted, when overcoming every difficulty, he could procure honey for Phedora and his sister : whenever they rambled out, he directed their steps to the wood, and scarcely ever returned without regaling them with the fruit of his adventurous gallantry. At length his depredations became too evident to escape notice, and Ulric Stenau, to whom unhappily part of the wood belonged, loudly lamented his losses. The delinquents could not fail of hearing these complaints, and the two girls were terrified at the menaces he uttered against those who secretly injured him, and felt some remorse at the fault they had been led to commit ; but Ivan laughed at their fears and scruples, and braved the discovery which Ulric intimated he should

shortly make. The weather, however, for some days detained them at home, but at length the sky became serene, and they resumed their accustomed walks. Catharine and Phedora had formed a resolution not to enter the wood, or be tempted to renew their fault; but the raillery and solicitations of Ivan overcame the first part of this prudent determination, and he immediately began his achievements by mounting the first tree that promised an abundance of spoil.—“You see,” cried he, “that I am determined to dine at friend Ulric’s expence; and so shall you, if you will only keep watch, and tell me if you see any one coming.”—His affrighted companions declared they would not partake in the theft, and urged him to desist; but, finding their most earnest entreaties unavailing, they consented to become his auxiliaries, as far as related to giving him notice of the approach of the enemy they dreaded. Ivan then ascended very triumphantly to the wood-work below the bees nest, but as he was twisting himself through it,

it, it suddenly gave way and he fell to the ground, where he lay without sense or motion.

The screams of his sister echoed through the wood, whilst Phedora, who thought he was dead, was deprived both of voice and utterance: she flew to him, however, with precipitation, and finding that he was covered with blood, all her own congealed at the sight, and she stood by his side like a statue: but, at length observing that the current still flowed, she exerted her endeavours to stop it; whilst Catherine wrung her hands, and called in vain upon her brother to open his eyes. Phedora grew more and more terrified—"I will run to Mr. Leuhaupt," she exclaimed, "even if he should kill me, and tell him all, that he may come and help our poor Ivan!"

She then darted off with the swiftness of an arrow, and slackened not her pace till she arrived at the good minister's house.—Mrs.

Leuhaupt was fortunately with dame Rubenski, and her husband quite alone, to whom Phedora, with a pale aspect of horror, related the misadventure. Shocked as he was, his presence of mind did not forsake him; but hastily seizing whatever he could immediately find to bind up the wound, he put a bottle of spirits into his pocket, and desiring Phedora to direct a peasant to follow him instantly, and to keep herself from the observation of his wife, he hurried to his unhappy boy, who had recovered his senses, though he appeared much stupified from a contusion on his head, which was already amazingly swelled: he was otherwise dreadfully bruised, and scarcely able to sit against the tree, even with the support of Catherine, who was in despair that she could not stop the blood which still trickled, tho' slowly, and was more terrible to her imagination than all the bruises, of the anguish of which poor Ivan complained. Mr. Leuhaupt examined his head with more alarm than he thought proper to exhibit, but he found

found his limbs were unbroken, and as he was compelled to leave to time alone the elucidation of the danger with which the contusion was attended, he could do little more at present than convey his son home. Phedora had obeyed his instructions, and brought a peasant to his assistance, and whilst they slowly carried the unlucky Ivan between them, she was again dispatched to the village with Catherine, to prepare Mrs. Leuhaupt for a sight too terrific to be presented to her without a previous intimation. She had unfortunately returned home, and was surprised to find the house entirely deserted: the hesitation of the distressed girls, and the confused narrative they gave, alarmed the timid mother, and she was rushing out to meet her Ivan, when her steps were arrested on the threshold by the appearance of this beloved boy, pale, languid, and covered with sanguine streams, which gave her an apprehension so horrid of his immediate death, that she was unable to support the shock, and staggering a few paces towards

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him,

him, she sunk down without uttering a word.

Dame Rubenski, who had observed what in the village amounted to a crowd, passing by the cottage, enquired and learnt the cause; and with trembling steps crept to the dwelling of her friends, to give all the assistance she could. Her presence relieved the mind of Mr. Leuhaupt, who committed his wife to her care, whilst he attended his son, whose hurts he again examined with anxious solicitude; but not observing any that gave him much disquietude, except the contusion on the head, which he was sensible might have fatal consequences, though he knew not how to guard against them, he merely applied to the wound some herbs whose virtues he had successfully tried, and left him to repose. His afflicted mother earnestly entreated that she might watch by him, but Mr. Leuhaupt would not consent to it for the sake of both parties, reserving the office for himself.

When

When the house was restored to its usual calm, the widow Rubenski returned to her home, supported by Phedora, who felt too much depressed and even guilty, to converse as usual; her grandmother was likewise silent, and looked extremely grave. As they entered the cottage, Phedora burst into tears, and missing the accustomed consolation from her hitherto indulgent parent, retired to a corner, to sob out the grief that swelled her heart. Dame Rubenski for some time appeared not to notice her; but at length calling to the disconsolate girl, she required a narrative of the transaction, by which the misfortune had been incurred.

Phedora very readily disclosed the whole; but as poor Ivan had already suffered so severely, she could not find it in her heart to mention her own reluctance and that of Catherine to be his accomplices, or relate that their fears for his safety alone, had prevailed with them to share the disgrace of the last attempt upon the property of Ulric Stenau.

When she had ended, the good woman shook her head.—“ Oh Phedora !” she exclaimed, “ I felt not half the pain I experience at this minute, when I formerly beheld you pining for the food I had not to give you. I then thought you free from guile, and could bless heaven, that amidst the horrors of bitter want, the child of my Rubenski was honest and good ; but now that the Almighty has raised up friends to your youth—even whilst the worthiest of men is instilling into your mind the precepts of virtue, and loading you with benefits, you repay him by joining to bring dishonour into the bosom of his family, and overwhelming him with a misery more poignant, ungrateful that you are, than that from which he has raised you. Go to Ulric Stenau, confess your fault, and humble yourself before the man, who will now be justified in charging you with theft, and me with equal dishonesty for having brought up my child to be the pest of society.”

To

To these bitter reproaches Phedora made no reply, but by prompt obedience to the injunction which closed them : with a face swollen with weeping, and her eyes yet streaming, she run to seek the dreaded Ulric and implore the pardon she was hopeless of obtaining. She found him relating, with malicious triumph, the success of his cruel plan ; for he had purposely loosened the boards round his finest trees, at once to discover and punish the marauders : he knew not that Phedora was one of them, but as she was the usual companion of the unlucky Ivan, and seemed to be thus lamenting his mischance, he called to her the moment she appeared in sight, to listen to the taunts he was not ashamed of uttering. The confession she instantly made was beyond his expectation ; but it had not sufficient power to disarm his anger : he loaded her with reproaches, and cast upon her revered parent some reflections which Phedora was unable to hear with any patience :—she began to vindicate her with earnestness, and the brutal

tal wretch then drove her from him with the utmost obloquy.

Forlorn and disconsolate she then returned to her cottage; and supposing that her grandmother had, during her absence, eaten her supper, because her own share alone remained upon the board, she put it away untouched, and laid herself down to rest: but affliction had now, for the first time, power to banish repose from her little humble couch, and with a mind ill at ease, she watched the long twilight of eve and morning, till at length wearied with restlessness, she sunk into an uneasy slumber towards sun-rise. For the first time too, she felt unhappy and ashamed in the presence of Mr. Leuhaupt, to whose dwelling her anxious steps were first directed:—the charge of ingratitude wounded her to the soul, and when she beheld the good minister, she fell upon her knees before him, and besought his forgiveness. Ivan had, however, already exculpated her in the eyes of his father, for he was miserable until he had

had withdrawn from Phedora and his sister the blame they appeared to deserve. Mr. Leuhaupt raised her with kindness, and having gently chidden her for concealing the fault which had brought on all this mischief, and which a timely discovery would have prevented, he declared that if the punishment of Ivan had not been dangerous and quite so severe, he should not have regretted it.

The pale face and humid cheeks which Phedora presented to Mrs. Leuhaupt, who attributed her anxiety wholly to the situation of Ivan, procured her a very tender kiss; but she would not suffer her yet to see him, lest her sorrowful appearance should affect him. Having therefore hastily embraced Catherine, the little orphan returned to her grandmother, to perform all those offices which her age and infirmities so much required: she found her still grave and unhappy, and her manner drew forth anew the tears of Phedora, which the kind reception of her beloved benefactors had dried up.—

The good widow enquired if Ivan were something better, and receiving a satisfactory answer was again silent: this conduct, so unusual and so afflicting, almost broke the heart of poor Phedora, and she so earnestly promised to offend no more, and begged to be forgiven with so many tears, that the appearance of anger dame Rubenski had assumed, was much diminished.

Ivan was of necessity confined to the house, until the warm weather, which generally vanished with the first autumnal month, no longer animated vegetation: to this the bitterness of long and sudden frosts succeeded. He felt this mortification equally with the pain of his contusions, and the reproachful lectures of his father; and thus experienced the vengeance of Ulric Stenau in its fullest force: yet the amusements of winter soon chased from his mind every other remembrance of his punishment, but those emotions of hatred and contempt which the presence of this man always inspired. The adventure

venture left in the heart of Phedora a strong abhorrence of an action either deliberately unjust or thoughtlessly wrong; and the admonitions of her grandmother she had so keenly felt, that altho' their severity wounded for the present, their salutary influence became durable and most impressive.

Livonia, at the end of two years, still groaned under the oppressive contests of Poland, Russia, and Sweden: its inhabitants were divided amongst themselves, and its provisions drained to supply the vigour of those opponents, whose feuds were becoming its destruction. Many families fled from the gulph visibly yawning beneath their feet; but many still remained to brave its horrors, because their nearest and dearest relatives had taken part in the contest, whose interest or whose fortunes they would not desert.—The poorer and meaner sort, who had not in general either the means, the thought, or the courage to emigrate from the spot that gave them birth, and where alone they were
assured

affured of sustaining themselves by their labour, bore with a kind of desperate patience the plunder they could not avoid; but at length it became more severe, as it was more frequent, and the dreadful dearth and consequent poverty, which no industry or toil could avert, forced the peasantry into those armies that desolated their provinces and ruined their families. The manufactories then stood still, and the earth remained uncultivated; the desolation became every day more wide and universal, and each individual then felt wounds which were mangling the bosom of his country. Mr Leuhaupt cheered the drooping spirits of his little flock, and instructed them to preserve their stores in the bosom of the earth, which thus a second time yielded them its treasures, and enabled them alike to mock the keen researches of the hungry soldier, and the bitter blasts from the frozen ocean.

It was now above three years since the noble benefactors of the widow Rubenski had

had first extended to her their assistance, and the money left with the friendly minister for her use, was almost exhausted : but the excellency of his heart was neither drained nor impaired ; and as it had pleased heaven to lessen his family, which gave him rather more power to listen to its benevolent dictates, he secretly determined to impart this unpleasant circumstance only to his wife ; and with her concurrence, proposed to their ancient friend to become their inmate, together with Phedora, and partake their fortune whatever it might be.

After a few objections urged by the modesty of dame Rubenski, the plan was joyfully acceded to, and the union which a similarity of virtues had first formed, was thus more closely cemented. But the affection of the young people was not to be improved. Catherine Leuhaupt regarded Phedora with the sincerest friendship, who, on her part, venerated the whole family with such grateful enthusiasm, that she would
freely

freely have given up her life for them, without considering it a sacrifice. Ivan was, however, jealous of her superior fondness for his sister, and now and then reproached her for this offence, with some degree of ill-humour : yet he never failed the next time he went out, to bring her, if it was in the winter, a half-frozen bird to be revived by her tender cares ; or in summer, the first flowers he could find as a peace-offering. Her voice was a charm which could check his most vehement emotions of anger and resentment, and her applause an ample recompense for the most painful self-denial, or the most arduous exertion. He retained for some time his abhorrence of Ulrick Stenau, whose cruel vengeance had nearly proved so fatal to him ; nor could the exhortations or pacific lectures of his father ever extort from his lips an affirmation that the injury he had himself committed, was repented of, and the superior injury he had received was forgiven, until he perceived that Phedora was shocked at his obstinate implacability, which her own conduct

conduct still more forcibly condemned than either looks or words.

It had been for some time dangerous to wander from the village, as the foragers of either army, especially the Swedes, who were perpetually on the watch, seized upon every youth they encountered, to replenish their thinned battalions :—Young Leuhaupt, now in his seventeenth year, was uncommonly tall and well-proportioned, and his father knew and trembled at the risque he ran ; but he had not the power of sending him to a place of greater security. He detained him therefore as much as possible at home, and prevailed with him, when they were annoyed by their unwelcome visitors, to secrete himself from their observation. Yet though Ivan detested the acts of oppression every soldier was indiscriminately compelled to exercise over his more helpless fellow-creatures, either to supply his own urgent wants, or to gratify the caprice and ambition of a higher power : though he had listened with attention to the
inexpressible

inexpressible horrors attached to an active life of military duty, he found his heart beat high to enlist under the banners of the noble Livonian,* who had formerly fought to free his country from oppression, and now struggled to avenge it. To dissipate this inclination, which tortured the bosom of his mother, every attention and art apprehensive tenderness could invent, were employed, not only by his own family, but by the widow Rubenski and Phedora; and he could now no longer complain with any semblance of justice, that he was the last in her affection and esteem. On his part he was equally assiduous to amuse her and his sister, and had contrived, during the rigour of the winter, a pastime in which they all delighted. It consisted of a plank elevated at one end a considerable height, with ledges affixed to each side, in which was placed a seat to glide from the top to the bottom. When Ivan had compleated it under the direction of his

• Patkul.

father,

father, he threw a sufficient quantity of water over the plank, which freezing as it fell, covered the surface with a smooth ice; then placing himself in the seat, it flew down with a celerity almost incredible.* Catherine and Phedora were delighted with this exercise, and almost all the young people of the village soon partook of it. Amongst these was a son of Ulric Stenau, a boy about fourteen years of age, who could not, tho' of a temper proud and sullen, deny himself the satisfaction all his companions so much extolled; but to him it was rather a punishment than a sport, because Ivan Leuhaupt whom every one loved, and whom he hated, was master of the ceremonies, and would not suffer him to take another boy's turn, or beat the girls to make them quit the field. He therefore procured a slide of his own, much superior in height and magnitude to that of Ivan, whom he invited, together

* This became a favourite diversion at the court of Russia, in 1735, under the Empress Ann.

with

with Catherine and Phedora, to witness his magnificence.

They went, more from deference to his father than inclination to accept the summons, and found young Stenau encompassed by his companions, who with minds early corrupted, paid him all the adulation his insolence demanded. The moment he perceived Catherine and her friend, he ran to them and boisterously seizing Phedora, endeavoured to place her in the slide; but she was terrified at the height from which she must descend, and fearfully drew back. The rude boy disregarded her reluctance, and was drawing her forward, when Ivan interfered and released her with some difficulty from his grasp. Young Stenau much offended, no longer took any notice of Phedora or her companions, who invited to partake of the amusement, became merely spectators of it, because the master of the festival instead of sacrificing his inclination to please his guests, was solicitous only to gratify

gratify himself, and made them stand shivering by, whilst he alone occupied the seat of his slide. He had descended several times successively, when his head became giddy from the continued velocity of his motion ; and, having in vain endeavoured to catch at something to save himself, he fell headlong from the middle of his career. His companions, terrified at the expected rage of Ulric, whom they all feared, inconsiderately fled different ways, and left his son to his unhappy destiny. The compassion of Phedora and the young Leuhaupts was forcibly awakened at the deplorable situation in which he lay : the disgust they had conceived against him was no more remembered, and they united to carry him to his father's house, which was not far from the spot. His mother, whose only child he was, and who idolized him, when she beheld his ghastly countenance and motionless limbs, rent the air with her screams, which soon brought her husband to share in her grief and distraction. They vehemently bemoaned their

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darling

darling boy, but were incapable of directing that proper care should be taken of him : Ivan, more thoughtful, ran to procure the aid of his father, who arriving soon after, found the Stenaus still occupied with help-
less lamentation. Mr. Leuhaupt could not discover the precise injury the lad had received, excepting that two or three of his ribs were broken, and recommended that medical assistance should be procured from Odenpo.

A sledge was instantly prepared, and a man dispatched for the purpose :—The parents, afflicted as they were, were still eager to throw the blame of this misfortune upon any other than their son, and demanded a detail of it from his lips ; but he was entirely unable to give it, and Ivan related the accident, and the flight of his young friends, whose conduct had given him great disgust through the whole of the transaction. The anger of Ulric Stenau was roused at the narrative, and to divert his grief he sought
out

out the trembling deserters, and overwhelmed them with the rage they had fled to avoid.

Mrs. Leuhaupt, well-knowing how to sympathize in the anxious sorrow she had herself so recently felt, offered every consolation and assistance in her power: she was constituted chief nurse, and called in the diligent cares and attentions of Phedora to second her own; a conduct with which Ivan was much shocked, as it totally deprived him of her society. In vain, however, did the Physicians from Odenpo prescribe, and equally vain was the watchfulness and invariable kindness of Mrs. Leuhaupt; their patient still languished in extreme pain, and his recovery was despaired of.

But all the attention of the minister's family was now called to a subject which interested their generous hearts with superior force: the good widow Rubenski, whom they so much loved and revered, apparently
drew

drew near her last moments; the blood scarcely crept into her veins, and her limbs, ever weak and languid, became motionless and dead. Phedora, apprehending the event, wept and implored of heaven with the most passionate supplication to restore her beloved and only parent; who gently reminded her of the unhopèd for benefits she had already received from its mercy, and without flattering her wishes, exhorted her to resignation and composure: yet, whatever her piety might enjoin, affection and solicitude for the future welfare of her darling child, occupied her own bosom, and agitated her mind with a thousand emotions of anxiety, which all the experienced kindness and benevolence of their mutual friends could not efface.

Mr. Leuhaupt procured the medical person who attended young Stenau, to visit the venerable Rubenski; but he gave no hope of her recovery, and intimated that her existence was of very short duration. She was not shocked at the sentence, for she felt its truth,

truth, and found the powers of life fast decaying. Phedora was, with some difficulty, removed from her bedside, whilst her grandmother, at her own request, conversed in private with Mr. Leuhaupt. The conference was of some length, and towards the latter end of it he recalled his wife, who remained a considerable time with them, before Phedora was again admitted.

On the following day the widow Rubenski was considerably weaker, and it became very painful to her to utter an articulate sound; yet she was anxious in her last moments, again to recommend her poor orphan to the compassion and protection of the worthy pair, who had already snatched her from the bitterest want, and bestowed upon her mind a cultivation, her own extreme age and poverty would have denied to her wishes.—When expression could no longer be attained, the dying parent aided her request by those looks which the heart can so well explain, the feeble pressure, the sudden tear that hastily fills with reciprocal drops, those

eyes on which the poor petitioner gazes with earnest supplication; the uplifted hand which calls heaven to witness the compact an exchanging glance alone implied, and the last faltering benediction divided between the object of her fondest love, and those to whose fostering care she commits her—all sunk deep into the hearts of the good minister and his wife, and swelled them with the sincerest grief. Phedora embraced her grandmother as though she would have retained the departing spirit in its worn-out dwelling; but her tears no longer flowed, and, but that a deep convulsive sob shook her frame from time to time, she would have appeared insensible to the scene that wounded her so keenly.

The widow Rubenski was desirous of seeing the young Leuhaupts for the last time, and their mother withdrew to bring them to her: they were weeping for their good old friend, and for the afflicted Phedora, whose sorrows they longed to soothe, and hastily obeyed the summons they had been fearful of

of not receiving. They arrived at her bedside in time to hear the broken entreaties of the dying matron, to regard and cherish their orphan companion as a sister: Catharine murmured an inarticulate assent, and Ivan vehemently affirmed that he would love her to the last moment of his life. Phedora raised her head to thank him, but was diverted from her purpose, by a look of terror and solicitude which the youth cast upon her grandmother, whose eyes were closed, and who appeared as though the hand of death had already attained her. Mr. Leuhaupt thought so, and would have removed Phedora, who resisted his efforts; but during the contention, the widow Rubenski evinced some faint signs of life, and the good pastor, after several attempts to restore her to animation, perceived that nature's last struggle was rapidly approaching. It was soon past, and Mrs. Leuhaupt, assisted by her son, then forced her little friendless charge from the shocking scene.

CHAP. IV.

—————“ He plung’d in —————
“ And buffeting the billows to her rescue,
“ Redeem’d her life.” —————

THE tender concern the whole family demonstrated for her loss, and the sorrow they themselves felt for the death of the widow Rubenski, whom they respected and esteemed, softened the anguish of Phedora and took from her soul half the bitterness of grief. She was now entirely cast upon the benevolence of this worthy and amiable pair, whose parental kindness could not, however, efface from her sensible mind that she stood alone amidst her fellow-creatures, isolated, and unconnected by any of those tender bands, by which nature subdues and humanizes mankind. This idea, whilst it animated the gratitude she felt for every instance of affection the Leuhaupts bestowed upon her, cut her to the heart when she unavoidably

avoidably witnessed the difficulties under which they sometimes struggled, and the wants they vainly wished to hide from her knowledge.

Upon these occasions Ivan could not be silent, but earnestly entreated his father to permit him to join the Livonian troops.—Mr. Leuhaupt, however, invariably rejected his request, both from compassion to the distraction of his mother, and from the reflections he had made upon the probable result of the agitations which now convulsed his unhappy country: contested by powerful adversaries, it must, he thought, be inevitably condemned to slavery; whilst those who from disinterested patriotism were the most active to vindicate and preserve its rights, would either be consigned to an ignominious death by the tyrant from whom they revolted, or linger out a wretched existence in the deserts of Siberia, for starting at the more rigorous laws of the sovereign who affected to protect them. Whenever

the impetuosity of Ivan threatened to overcome the arguments of his father, Phedora sunk into the deepest dejection, and accused herself of augmenting the difficulties of this worthy family, by burthening them with the additional task of supporting her; thus becoming the principal cause of those contentions which disturbed the harmony they were wonted to live in, and raising perpetual alarms and disquietude amongst those she would have died to serve. She was well convinced that Mr. Leuhaupt received no further succour from her unknown benefactors; and she had undesignedly overheard, during the life of her grandmother, that the money which had been deposited in his hands was quite exhausted; they could not therefore, deceive her on this subject, however they might have wished it, and the uneasiness of her mind produced its correspondent effect on the body; she became languid, and lost part of the vivid bloom which usually adorned her cheek.

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The whole family participated in the continued anguish that over-clouded her native vivacity ; but Mr. Leuhaupt alone divined its real source. His penetrating eye had traced her varying emotions when the hard hand of poverty encompassed them with a keener grasp, and he marked with what unwillingness she took her portion of their humble meals. He immediately communicated the discovery to his wife, and with equal anxiety they consulted in what manner they could remove the scrupulous delicacy that wounded their benevolent hearts. Ivan and Catherine gently reproached her for avoiding their society, and indulging a grief she would not let them endeavour to alleviate. “ Why will you not permit me to go with you every evening to the grave of our dear good dame Rubenski ? ” said Catherine tenderly ; “ do you think, Phedora, that I would not weep with you ? ” — “ And do you think,” added Ivan, “ that I would not help you to clear the turf of weeds, and try to dry up the tears you shed over it ? ”

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“ I was thinking last night,” said she, “ that had my grandmother been alive, she would have reasoned with you Ivan, and have dissuaded you from vexing your mother by talking of going to fight in the trenches of Riga: it was this regret that made me weep so much, and stay till you came to seek me, for I forgot how late it was.”

“ Then I will no longer wish to join the Livonians,” he replied, with great quickness; “ and if this has been part of your grief, it shall afflict you no more.”

“ I may then tell Mrs. Leuhaupt so,” cried Phedora, “ and give her the comfort of sleeping again in peace, without dreading to behold in her visions, the image of her son, wounded and dying.” Ivan assented upon condition that she would resume her cheerfulness, and not shun his company and that of Catherine. His sister warmly urged the same request, and Phedora, overcome by their persuasions and remonstrances, promised that she would no longer avoid them, but

but endeavour to recover the serenity she had experienced before the loss of her deceased parent. The effort, however, was beyond her strength, and Mr. Leuhaupt saw, with inexpressible concern, that unless her active mind were amused by some employment, it would sink under the weight that oppressed it.

Young Stenau still languished from the effects of his fall, and no remedy prescribed by the physician, or suggested by the compassionate minister, could give him effectual relief from internal pain. Mrs. Leuhaupt, after the death of the widow Rubenski, renewed her attentions, and sometimes took with her, her daughter and Phedora to amuse the fretful listlessness of the invalid.— The surly pride of the father, and the hasty vehemence of the mother, were alike subdued by an event that crushed all their fondest hopes, and they turned with helpless anguish, towards those who were both capable and willing to soothe their affliction and

alleviate the misery of their son. The humility of Phedora, her gentleness and patience, and above all the mournful air with which her own loss had impressed her countenance, joined to her silent solicitude, often overcame the peevish impatience of young Stenau, who at length rejected all assistance or relief but from her hand. The afflicted parents, eager to catch at any transient comfort, would scarcely allow her to be absent a moment from their sight, and stooped to the humblest entreaties to obtain her entire residence with them. Mr. Leuhaupt assented with the less reluctance, as he was well assured, that from the satisfaction of finding herself of such essential service, the mind of the little Rubenski would receive all the ease her assiduous cares imparted:—but his family could not so well reconcile themselves to her absence, and Ivan looked very grave when he heard the proposition.

It was now nearly five years since he had first beheld Phedora, then a child; he was
himself

himself but three years older, but he felt even then with peculiar compassion the misery of her lot, and was the first of Mr. Leuhaupt's children who sought the cottage of her grandmother: in a short time she rivalled his sister Catherine in his love, who had always been his favourite; but since her residence with his family, Phedora had outstripped her friend in the affection of Ivan, and he was much offended and very jealous of the attention she bestowed upon young Stenau. In vain did she appeal to his humanity and endeavour to interest his commiseration for the unhappy boy: it was enough, Ivan said, that he had obtained hers, he was then no longer an object of compassion to the rest of the world.

This reply was not supposed to be an effusion of gallantry, either by Phedora or Catherine, who was likewise present, for they knew not even the meaning of the word; and Ivan was himself as little acquainted with the term, as with the mode

of conduct it was meant to delineate: he merely felt that he could never be miserable whilst Phedora was solicitous for his happiness, and that the attentions she lavished upon young Stenau ought to have charmed away all his ills: but when he found that his remonstrances were disregarded, and that in spite of them, little Rubenski was preparing to take up her abode for the present, under the roof of Ulric Stenau, his anger prompted him anew to hint his intention of flying to the army. She was alarmed at the intimation, and reminded him of the promise he had made, to think no more of it.

"It was upon condition," replied he, "that you would not avoid my company, and that you permitted me to share in all your sorrows, and in all your cares; but now you are even quitting my father's house; and when you are gone—I may as well go too."

"Why do you talk thus?" said Phedora, whilst the tears started from her eyes; "I shall be absent but a short time; when young Stenau recovers, I shall return to you all, whom

whom I so much love ; if, indeed, you will receive me : alas ! Ivan, where else should I go ? You know I have no home.” — “ Yes, yes,” interrupted he, much softened, “ you have a home : but I fear these Stenaus will become so fond of you, that they will be unwilling to part with you again.” “ Ah, no !” cried Phedora, “ it is only here that a poor orphan like me, could find refuge from every pain, but that one with which my helpless gratitude sometimes overwhelms my heart.”

At length poor Ivan was compelled to allow of her temporary absence, after having procured a promise that she would at least spend every moment she could spare, with him and Catherine, who insisted upon being included in the treaty : yet he could not see her depart, without an emotion of vexation and regret, that for a while deprived him of all vivacity and temper.

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being of those around her, and no longer a burthen on the benevolence of her indigent friends, recovered her spirits, and shook off the languor which had oppressed her. For some time every thing was well : little Rubenski forgot not her promise to her beloved companions, and when her patient obtained any repose, she stole out to meet and embrace them. Mr. Leuhaupt still assisted her cares for the recovery of young Stenau ; but he soon became so fractious and capricious, that he would scarcely endure any one in his sight but Phedora, and she was obliged to curtail her interviews with Ivan and Catherine, 'till at length whole days past without bringing them together.

The unhappy boy now grew much worse, and Mr. Leuhaupt imagined, that either the interior injury he had received had arrived at a crisis, or the decay of the wounded part, which had been slow and gradual, was completed : he lingered only a short time after the change, and then suddenly expired in
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the arms of little Rubenski, and in the presence of Mrs. Leuhaupt alone, the wretched parents having retired, at her earnest request, to snatch a short repose, after an anxious and fatiguing watch of many nights.

This event, however afflicting, they had long expected; the effect of it, therefore, was not a violence of sorrow: but the death of their only child caused a tedious vacuum in their lives, which the good minister and his wife in vain sought to remove by enforcing the doctrine of resignation, and the practise of virtue. Ulric Stenau could now behold with stupid indifference his fields despoiled, and his granaries rifled by the marauding foldier: his stores were no longer guarded with jealous vigilance, and his hand, before closed against the wants of his poorer neighbours, now opened to relieve them, in the hope that heaven would reward the deed, by removing from his bosom the listless anguish that weighed him to the earth.—The company of the Leuhaupts, once the objects

jects of his scorn, was now his only refuge from the miseries of self-reproach, and the late repentance of a life spent in unfeeling prosperity, for the blessings of which he had not been thankful, nor sought in gratitude to alleviate the less happy condition of any of his fellow creatures. The compassion he had often refused to others, would now have been balm to his heart ; but this was not to be obtained from the beings who had flown at his nod, and soothed his imperious temper before misfortune had softened its ferocity : to the good minister and his family he looked for consolation, and was not disappointed.—Phedora was his almoner, and the exquisite delight she received from relieving any distress, or rescuing a poor wretch from famine and death, was at length communicated in part, to those whose stores had hitherto been hoarded with rigid retention, and unlocked but for themselves.

As Ivan had foreseen, she became a favourite with Ulric and his wife ; not for the
graces

graces of her person, or for the vivacity of her temper, but for the gentleness that never suffered her to retort an angry sentence, and for the humility which cheerfully allowed of that superiority, their lingering pride would still at times assume. When they sighed at past occurrences, her silent but solicitous cares invited them to forget their grief; and when the conscious satisfaction of having banished meagre want from some board where it had presided, illumined their eyes with a momentary ray of contentment, she welcomed the pleasing emotion, and her animated imagination would then call returning smiles to the countenance which sorrow had marked for its own.

But the affection of Phedora to her first and best friends, was not to be diminished by her more recent gratitude to her new ones:—the Leuhauptis still occupied her heart, and she still sighed in secret for the indigence they so little deserved to suffer.—It was true that the bounty of Mrs. Stenau
now

now took from her soul the misery of lessening their comforts, but they were yet infinitely too few, and she wished, though she knew not how to effect her purpose, to induce Ulric to share with them his superfluous wealth. The proposition was, however, of so serious an extent, that she could not venture to make it, and for the present she was compelled to brood over the darling project, with fond regret at her want of power to put it in execution.

Upon the death of young Stenau, Phedora returned to the roof of her beloved Mr. Leuhaupt ; but he promoted the daily visits she still made to the childless pair, in the hope that her sweetness of disposition and winning manners might induce them to consider her orphan state, and provide for her future wants, should his destiny ever deprive him of the power of protecting her :—his wife concurred in the wish with disinterested sincerity ; but Catherine and her brother repined at being deprived of her society,
unrestrained

unrestrained as they had been used to enjoy it, by the presence of those who knew not how to smile with conceding indulgence at the lively sallies of youth; and they thought the benefits their father hinted at, were scarcely worth those hours of careless joy they had laughed away together.

When the sudden summer of Livonia had again clothed their fields with verdure, Mr. Leuhaupt proposed a little excursion upon the lake from which the village was not two miles distant. Ulric Stenau was possessed of a boat that had carried his hemp, flax and other merchandize to Pernaw, before the contention, in which his country was engaged had rendered the passage insecure.—The armies of either sovereign were now marching southward; the personal danger that had menaced the traveller was no longer so much dreaded, and Mr. Leuhaupt imagined a change of scene however momentary, would as much contribute to dissipate the gloom of his new friends, as the precept

cept and persuasion with which he had endeavoured to combat it. The proposal was adopted with great alacrity, and the young people were charmed with the expected pleasures of this little emigration : they readily charged themselves with the burthen of the provisions it was necessary to take, and led the way with a cheerful step, through an avenue of pines and cedars, that marked out their road quite to the borders of the lake.

Ivan relieved Phedora and his sister in turns, by carrying, in addition to his own, the portions which had been assigned to them ; and thought himself fully rewarded, when with sweet solicitude, his little Rubenski pointed out to him the path most shaded from the scorching sun. Ulric had previously sent to have the boat examined and repaired, and the man who had been accustomed to navigate it to Pernaw, was to conduct it. The cooling breeze that swept over the water, refreshed the little party, and

and made them forget the toil they had undergone to enjoy it. Their boat skimmed the bosom of the lake, which was ruffled only by the gentle wind that filled their sail:—the placid beauty of the scene diffused over the minds of Mr. and Mrs. Leu-
haupt the most pleasing calm; even the Stenaus appeared sensible of its delightful effect, whilst their young companions expressed their satisfaction in the most unbounded gaiety, and unrestrained laughter.

When mid-day was past, it was judged necessary to make again for the shore, from which the wind had already carried them a considerable distance, and Ulric ordered his man to take down the sail and row back again: the good minister and his son agreed to relieve him by taking an oar alternately, and Ivan, pleased with the exercise, endeavoured to outvie the steady skill of the boatman.

Mr.

Mr. Leuhaupt was gazing with delighted attention upon the wide expanse of water, illumined by the sun-beams, which glittered upon the rippling of the waves, that were formed by the breeze alone, when a small Russian sloop caught his sight, making towards the boat with great swiftness. As it approached, he plainly perceived it to be filled with soldiers, and an exclamation of surprize and fear that escaped him, whilst he cast a look of apprehension on his son, struck every heart with terror and dismay. The fond mother too well comprehended his anxiety, and stretching her arms towards the youth with an ineffectual effort of tenderness and protection, sunk, without life, on the bosom of her husband. Amidst the confusion that immediately ensued, the sloop came up with them; but Phedora observed it not, for she was stooping over the side of the boat, for some water to recover her beloved, Mrs. Leuhaupt: in her haste and agitation the cup in which she meant to procure it, dropt from her extended hand.—It had been

her

her grandmother's, and she was so eager to regain it, that in leaning forward, her luxuriant locks floated upon the wave that bore it from her grasp. At this instant she heard Catherine shriek, and starting up, beheld a man in the Russian uniform entering the boat, which some sailors were lashing to the sloop. That Ivan would be snatched from them now appeared inevitable, and the distress this conviction gave her, joined to the terror of the invaders, took from her all recollection or presence of mind. The stranger, whilst he advanced to offer his assistance to Mrs. Leuhaupt, gazed earnestly at Phedora, who from an impulsive attempt to retire from him, fell over the shallow side of the vessel and disappeared. Catherine alone saw the event, for the rest of the party were occupied in restoring her mother; but her cries soon proclaimed it, and the agonizing distraction that ensued was beyond imagination. Ivan looked round with an air of desperation, and not beholding his Phedora, would have plunged into the wave

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to seek her, had not his sister hung about him and prevented the effort. The next moment Mr. Leuhaupt and Ulric Stenau exclaimed that she was saved.—“Where?—how is she saved?” he eagerly demanded.—“I know not,”—replied Mr. Leuhaupt; “but I am certain that I saw her taken up into the sloop.” Ivan beheld it at a small distance, and the people on board apparently very busy. The boatman, who had been sufficiently unconcerned to observe all that passed, informed them that the Russian had plunged into the water the moment Phedora sunk; and the sloop being instantly disengaged from the boat, had got ready to assist him: that when he appeared again, they put about and took him up, together with the body of the young woman, and all in less time than he could have pulled half a dozen strokes. “The body!” repeated Ivan with the utmost despair in his countenance; “is she dead then?”—The fellow replied with great coolness, that he could not say.—Ulric Stenau now ordered him

him to put up the sail and follow the sloop : he was obliged to comply ; but obeyed the comm and info dilatory a manner, that it was evident he did not wish to reach it.

The Leuhaupts, distressed with various fears for the destiny of their little friend, urged his speed with the utmost entreaties, whilst Ivan having several times called to the Russians with all the vehemence he could exert, snatched up an oar, and his father followed his example : yet, unskilled as they were in the use of the sail, they soon found that the impenetrable boatman did not second their efforts, but contrived rather to impede them. Ivan warmly remonstrated with him upon this unaccountable piece of treachery, and his master, enraged at his disobedience, threatened to dismiss him from his service the instant he landed. Mr. Leuhaupt then discovered, from the half sentences the fellow uttered, that he was not without the same fears for his own liberty, which the whole party, a few minutes before, felt for

that of Ivan, but which their subsequent terrors had quite effaced from every bosom but that of Mrs. Leuhaupt, whose anxiety had revisited her with returning life, both for Phedora and her son.

Ulric Stenau and Ivan were spared however, any further expostulation, by observing that the sloop lay to, that the boat might reach her : the young man then applied his oar with redoubled effort, and his father seconded his zeal. Ivan eagerly ascended the side of the vessel the moment he had attained it, and leaping upon deck looked round for the beloved Rubenski : she was not there, but hearing his voice, instantly flew from the cabin and sprung into his arms, from whence she passed into those of Mr. Leuhaupt, who had closely followed his son. Whilst the good man embraced her with paternal affection, the deliverer of Phedora examined his features with earnest surprise, and suddenly pronouncing his name, advanced towards him with a design of rendering

dering the recognition mutual: but the recollection of Mr. Leuhaupt was not so prompt; and the officer was compelled to introduce himself, by mentioning the appellation and residence of his family.—He was the son of those worthy people who, distinguished and loved the modest merit of the good pastor, and had, through his means, relieved the wants of the widow Rubenski: they were named Rectzizi, and their son Cassimir, by birth a Livonian, would not be restrained from taking up arms with those of his countrymen, who put themselves under the protection of Russia.

Mr. Leuhaupt had not seen this young man for seven years, at which time he had given him a fervent benediction, many good wishes and much sage advice, upon his leaving the paternal roof for the first time, to enlist as a volunteer under the banners of the unfortunate Patkul: his merit, from that period, had advanced him to a Lieutenancy, and he was now entrusted by his command-

der with an expedition of some moment.— He had quitted Dorpt but two days, and by accident rather than design, had cruized for a few hours about the lake, where he had thus unexpectedly encountered his old and well-remembered friend.

When Rectzizi had been presented to the whole party, who participated in the satisfaction arising from the discovery, Mrs. Leuhaupt turned her whole attention to Phedora, whose situation was exceedingly uncomfortable as well as dangerous. After a little consultation, the cabin was ceded wholly to the females, who contrived to remedy the inconvenience, by relinquishing each some part of their garments to their little rescued friend, whilst her own were hanging to dry at the windows of their withdrawing room. During this ceremony, the young foldier excused himself to the good minister and his son, for the trouble they had had in chasing him to recover his charming prize, which was occasioned, he said, by
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the extreme stupidity of his people ; for he was himself so occupied in endeavouring to restore her to life, that he did not observe the course they were steering, or their distance from the boat, until the young lady, on perceiving her situation, first made him remark it by entreating to be returned to her friends.

Mr. Leuhaupt admitted the apology with great good humour, but Ivan could not so soon forget the dreadful uneasiness he had endured from the fear of losing Phedora, and remained silent and thoughtful, whilst his father enquired of Rectzizi if he had lately heard from his family, he replied that he had not received any intelligence of them for some time past, which gave him much uneasiness ; but he knew they had been driven from Poland by the distractions of that unhappy country, and from that time he was ignorant of their destination.

When Phedora was again equipt in her own cloaths, the Stenaus expressed their wishes to return immediately to shore; and the young officer, who was unwilling so soon to part with his friends, undertook to escort them quite to their own house.—He directed his people to follow the instructions of the boatman, and in a few hours the party were landed at the spot from whence they had taken water in the morning.—The sloop was desired to wait the return of the Lieutenant, who proceeded to the village with the family of Mr. Leuhaupt; and the Stenaus, who had felt some uneasiness for their personal safety, were not displeased to be thus guarded, for the evening had already closed in, and the cedars and pines which in the morning had afforded them so delightful a shade, now rendered the way very gloomy; but when these were past, they were guided by the luminous twilight of a northern sky, which gave with distinct precision, every object to their view.

Mr.

Mr. Leuhaupt as he walked, conversed with young Rectzizi, who after some hesitation, enquired if Phedora were not his daughter? The good man replied that she was not; and after a pause, uninterrupted by his companion, he added, that he would inform him at another moment, of the manner in which she became a part of his family.—Cassimir made no reply, and a few minutes after, looking round him with attention, he affirmed that he knew the country, from having visited it some time ago in a foraging party. “Ah! my dear Sir,” continued the young man, “how little did I think that I was so near your dwelling! that hamlet to the left I well remember, from the remarkable cluster of firs at the entrance.”

Phedora, who was attentively listening to his accents, turned hastily towards him, and saw him point to her native place: his features and voice struck her recollection, and regarding him earnestly for a moment, she burst into tears. The Lieutenant was much

surprized at her emotion, and every one anxiously enquired the cause of it. When she could articulate, she told them that the preservation of her life was not the first benefit she had received from Rectzizi; and related with artless eulogium, the distress from which he had relieved her, when her poor grandmother's cottage had been pillaged by the soldiers. "Is it possible," exclaimed he impetuously, "that you can be the sweet child, whose tears and innocent expostulation so much interested me!"

"Yes," replied Phedora, "I was that child; and your goodness and bounty which my revered parent so much commended—alas! she is no more—but I will ever remember them with the liveliest gratitude."

"I see, my dear Cassimir," said Mr. Leuhaupt, taking his hand, "that you are worthy of the affinity you bear to those virtuous beings whom I have the honour to call my friends:—it was at your age that I first became acquainted with your father; my rank accorded not with his, but our minds were
not

not dissimilar. Let me endeavour to perpetuate the esteem and love that has ever subsisted between us, by presenting you to this youth, as one whom I would wish him to regard with emulative affection; when he has shewn himself worthy of your friendship, let him obtain it."—Ivan embraced Rectzizi with cordiality; but he appeared at the same time grave and uneasy, nor could all the attentions bestowed upon him by his sister and Phedora, who wondered at his disquietude, restore him to his usual vivacity.

Upon the arrival of the party at the village, Ulric Stenau insisted that they should sup at his house, where he offered the young soldier a bed, if he was at liberty to quit his sloop till morning. Rectzizi thankfully accepted his proposal, after telling Mr. Leuhaupt, whose looks he very well translated, that the vessel merely attended him and his men, that they might not be observed lurking in any of the villages about, whilst he watched an opportunity of accomplishing

the project he was commissioned with, which had been unavoidably delayed.—After this explanation, they sat down to their repast, to which every one did honour but Ivan, who now and then broke his unusual silence by asking their new friend various questions concerning the duties and employments in which he was generally engaged. Cassimir uttered a warm eulogium upon the cause his arms espoused, and as highly extolling the commander under whom he served, unthinkingly proposed to Ivan, in the heat of his zeal, to become what he had originally been, a volunteer in the regiment where he had obtained such encouraging success. But Catherine, trembling lest her brother should break his mother's heart by consenting, suddenly interrupted the young orator by entreating him to desist. Phedora, all in tears, seconded the request, which Rectzizi instantly complied with, very much disconcerted at the effect of his eloquence.

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“ I have advised my son,” said Mr. Leuhaupt, with his usual calmness, “ to enter into the church, for which I have endeavoured to qualify him ; but I will not restrain his inclinations, nor do I wish to debar him from the conversation of those, who by informing him minutely and with impartiality, of all the duties annexed to the life of a soldier, may better lead him to judge if it be such as his ideas have figured to him.”——

Rectzizi was silent, and Mr. Leuhaupt proceeded.—“ Tell me, my young friend, did your heart never bleed for the distress which your own hand had occasioned, when it has not been in your power—when duty forbade you to listen to the voice of humanity, and heal the wounds you were compelled to give? When you have stripped the poor widow of her mite, when you have snatched the bread from the mouth of the orphan, have you always been enabled, as in the case of my little Phedora, to follow the dictates of your native generosity, and dry up the tears you had caused to flow ?”

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“ Alas !”

“ Alas ! no,” replied Rectzizi ;—“ and that I could not, I have myself felt all the horrors I was compelled to inflict ; yet I have been taught to consider these particular and private evils as light, when weighed with that public good, which the temporary endurance of them at length occasions. The cause in which we struggle is so glorious, and the end will be so exemplary !—We fight for our rights, and to emancipate ourselves from an arbitrary and usurping tyrant, who laughs at our humble representations, and resents the patriotic boldness which inspires the effort.”

“ Ah my good friend !” returned Mr. Leuhaupt, “ wait yet a little while, and then observe the effects of this noble ebullition : already has it immersed us in blood, and made our country the prey of ambitious sovereigns, who gladly seized the opportunity of draining it of its produce, while they make it the convenient theatre of their own particular contentions, resulting alone from private jealousies, and the hope of wrest-
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ing from each other that power and dominion over us, which each chuses to arrogate to itself.—For the present, however, we will argue no more: I merely request of Ivan that he will delay his intention a short time: at the end of the year, if he thinks as he does now, he shall have my consent to take up arms under the monarch you serve, and my prayers and blessing shall attend him.”

Mrs. Leuhaupt sighed, and for a few moments every one was silent: at length her husband rose to depart, and with a half smile enquired of Rectzizi, if he should see him in the morning. The young man hesitated for a moment, and then asked permission to breakfast with the good minister and his family.—“ I shall be most happy to embrace you at my humble dwelling,” replied Mr. Leuhaupt, with earnest sincerity, “ if you can properly spare time to come and experience the welcome you will receive.”—Rectzizi was unable to deny himself this pleasure, and having mentioned an
early

early hour for their meeting in the morning, they separated.

When Phedora and Catherine withdrew for the night, they found it impossible to sleep, until they had mutually discussed the adventures of the day : the pleasures of the morning—their subsequent alarms—the danger of Phedora—the intrepid conduct of the amiable Rectzizi—all was canvassed with animation, and reflected upon with wonder. Catherine had often heard the story of the young soldier and the half-ruble, but now, that she had so unexpectedly seen the hero of the tale, she made Phedora repeat every word he had uttered, that in her own imagination she might adopt them to his manner, and review in fancy the whole of the transaction which did him so much honor. The vivacity of her approbation struck Phedora with surprize, who began to question the warmth of her own gratitude, since her friend, who was not the person so infinitely obliged, appeared to surpass her in commendation.

dation and esteem of the man who had so lately saved her life : this reflection pained her, at the same time that she was conscious her heart secretly applauded Rectzizi, even more than the tongue of her friend Catherine, voluble as it had been in his praise : her enquiries and eulogiums had scarcely ceased, when the hour drew nigh at which Cassimir had appointed to meet them to breakfast. Phedora failed not to recollect it ; she rose with the sun, and had nature put a little more of the coquette in her composition, and her wardrobe admitted the effort, she certainly would have attired herself with unusual care to appear before him : her countenance wore a very visible air of heaviness and languor that did not escape the notice of Mrs. Leuhaupt, who imputed it to the accident of the preceding day, imagining that the terror and shock her mind had received, must have deranged her frame ; she therefore took no further notice of her dejection, than by recommending her to keep herself quiet,
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and not follow Ivan in his long rambles for some time to come.

The young soldier was punctual to his hour: he had already taken leave of his hosts, and intended to regain his sloop, the moment he quitted Mr. Leuhaupt's family. This declaration he made on entering the house, to banish the anxiety he had observed in his old friend, lest his absence from his duty should be too much lengthened: it had however, the effect of stealing away the smiles that adorned the pretty face of Catherine, and adding to the gloom which appeared in that of Phedora. "And when shall we see you again?" asked Mrs. Leuhaupt, in a tone of solicitude.

"I fear my return will be very uncertain;" replied Rectzizi; "but if accident should so much favour my wishes, and my good destiny once more cast me in your way, I will forgive it for being a little wayward in other respects."

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The good minister perceived the mutual regret which neither his family nor his guest could conceal, at the separation that was fast approaching; and as he felt the same sensation himself, he proposed that they should accompany Rectzizi to the place where the vessel awaited his return, to prolong the pleasure his society afforded them. The idea was joyfully adopted, and they sent to the Stenaus an invitation to join the party; but they were fatigued by their recent excursion, and declined the walk.

When Phedora arrived at the spot where her native hamlet was perceptible, she turned to the young soldier who was walking by her side, and said to him with much emotion, " Let me once more thank you, whilst this object is before me which discovered my first obligation to you, for your humanity upon that occasion, and secondly for the life you have preserved; but above all, let me try to express some part of the gratitude with which my heart now pants, towards

wards your revered family, for rescuing my poor grandmother from misery—for lightening the burthen of poverty and years, and soothing her latter days into peace and comfort. If I should never have the happiness of beholding these worthy benefactors, will you tell them, from the little orphan who venerates their virtues, that she will never cease to bless them, or importune heaven that the deed may be rewarded."

Restzizi was surprized at the latter part of this address, which he could not possibly comprehend, and Mr. Leuhaupt observing his astonishment, drew him aside, and informed him of the beneficence of his parents towards the deceased widow Rubenski.—Cassimir hastily asked how long the stipend had been discontinued; but the good minister evaded the question, by saying that money had been placed in his hands to be advanced as it might be wanted. The young soldier sighed, and expressed his fears that Mr. Leuhaupt had distressed himself to sup-
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ply the deficiency he knew there must have been, from the long continued absence of his family from Livonia.—“ I would that I could reimburse you,” he added, endeavouring to force some money into the hand of his friend, “ but this is all I have about me—do not refuse me.”

“ You offend me,” interrupted Mr. Leuhaupt gravely : “ Ulric Stenau and his wife, whom you saw with us yesterday, wholly support our dear Phedora, whose insinuating gentleness has entirely won their hearts : put up your rubles, my too generous Cassimir, the Stenaus will not consent to be reimbursed, and as for myself, I have not done any thing.” He was obliged to comply, and follow the example of Mr. Leuhaupt, who hastily rejoined his family : they were slowly walking on before, and were now come within sight of the sloop. As they advanced, an officer who had commanded in the absence of Rectzizi, came up to him, and whispered something in his ear.—“ I must hasten away,” said the young man to Mr. Leuhaupt, whom
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he embraced, "farewell my dear Sir." Then repeating the adieu to Mrs. Leuhaupt, he advanced to her daughter and Phedora, who both trembled with agitation whilst he kissed a hand of each, and begged them not to forget him. He reminded Ivan of his father's desire that they should in future be friends, and assured him that the wish Mr. Leuhaupt had so far honoured him as to make, was on his part already accomplished. He then hurried away, and stood upon the deck of the vessel till he could no longer discern the party he had left on the shore.— They walked homeward pensive and sad: Ivan envied Rectzizi the power of distinguishing himself by his bravery and merit, and sickened at the inglorious life of inactivity to which he had been doomed. Mr. Leuhaupt, on the contrary, sighed with apprehension at the too probable destiny of this amiable young man, whose better fate would most likely be an honourable death in the field of battle; or if he survived the decision of the contest, the axe awaited him in Sweden,

Sweden, and the deserts of Siberia threatened him on the side of Russia.

Catherine and her companion were never weary of discoursing upon the agreeable qualities and amiable manners of the young soldier; but they soon discovered that these conversations were extremely irksome to Ivan, who felt towards their absent hero a sensation approaching to hatred, when Phedora praised his humanity, his intrepidity in saving her life at the hazard of his own, and the openness of his countenance which beamed with vivacity and good humour.—“ I wish,” exclaimed the mortified youth, “ that it had been my fate to merit such warm commendations! but alas, my father unkindly forces me to waste my youth in obscurity, and stifle the ardour that would impel me to win the esteem of those I love.”

“ And would you then leave us, Ivan?”—

“ Yes, I would leave you, that I might be received and caressed as Rectzizi was, when like him I could snatch a few moments from
my

my duty, to spend amidst my friends."—— Phedora, unwilling to afflict him, ceased her eulogiums in his presence ; but the partiality of Catherine was not to be thus restrained, until her brother very seriously told her she was in love with her new acquaintance.— This formidable charge startled the artless girl, who vehemently denied the truth of it however, and Ivan as strenuously affirmed it, with a proposal to submit the argument to the decision of their parents : to this Catherine felt unaccountably averse ; but as she would not, by shrinking from it, appear conscious that the judgment of Ivan was just, she at length assented to the plan.

The earnestness with which the cause was opened, and the innocent simplicity of the defendant, disconcerted the gravity of Mr. and Mrs. Leuhaupt, who smiled at the candour of their daughter in thus appealing to their award : amidst a variety of arguments in defence of her plea, she urged this unanswerable one, that she was yet only sixteen.

teen. Sentence was at length pronounced against Ivan, much to the satisfaction of the girls, who had trembled at the idea of his unbounded triumph, should his accusation be sanctioned by the assent of the judges.

Yet, though Ivan appeared to be thus mistaken in his sister's case, he began to be well ascertained as to the state of his own heart. The introduction of Rectzizi to the notice of Phedora, and the claims he had made to himself upon her esteem and gratitude, gave him a pain which he was unable for some time to divine the cause of; but the varying emotions of his mind soon unravelled the secret, and he felt that Catherine might retort the charge he had brought against her, without the possibility of meeting any defence. After this discovery, he held many consultations with himself, whether he should reveal it to his father, from whom he had never yet concealed a thought; but the fear of having Phedora removed from him, and consigned entirely to the Ste-
naus,

naus, prevented the half-proposed confidence. This apprehension determined him to bury his passion in his own bosom, until he could make it known with some hope of success : for the present, Rectzizi could not injure him ; and should he appear again with those looks and attentions he so much dreaded, Ivan resolved to assert his love, and interest his family in his cause. Pleased with this arrangement, he then cast from him the anxiety which had so lately clouded his features, and became more than usually assiduous to gain the approbation of Phedora.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

- “ Behold the furious and un pitying soldier !
“ ——— Death in every quarter,
“ With all, that sad disorder can produce,
“ To make a spectacle of horror !”

THE period fixed by Mr. Leuhaupt for the commencement of his son's military career, was rather more than half elapsed, when an event, such as he had foreseen, checked the ardour of Ivan, and turned the thoughts of every individual to his own immediate welfare and preservation. A neighbouring town, which was still in the possession of the Swedes, had been bombarded by the Russians, and taken by assault :—the wretched inhabitants, whose conduct was merely the effect of non-resistance to the party governing for the moment, happened

to displease the victors, and they decreed a punishment long meditated, against the Livonians. Rectzizi, who chanced to be in the conquering army, obtained leave of absence for a few hours, and employed it in hastening to the village of the good minister.

His unexpected presence caused some confusion and surprize in the family, whom he severally recognized with a momentary smile of pleasure. Then turning to Ivan, "Ah, my good friend," cried he, "we must bend in melancholy acquiescence to your father's better judgment. At this moment the sovereign who bound himself to redress our wrongs, himself inflicts still greater with a ruthless hand. I have been compelled to raise my sword against my fellow countrymen, indiscriminately with those who have oppressed them; and now, smarting with recent correction, they are doomed to a cruel banishment from their native soil, to people the barbarous plains of Astracan." His voice as he spoke, trembled with resentment and

and anguish.—“ Nor does the tyranny end here,” continued he ; “ the innocent are confounded with those who are pronounced guilty, and all the country round—”

“ I understand you,” said Mr. Leuhaupt, after a short pause ;—“ we are implicated in the sentence ; and even the harmless inhabitants of this little village must atone for a supposed offence, by quitting the fields they have toiled to cultivate, and the possessions their fathers bequeathed to them. I have long expected this stroke, and must submit to receive it : my conditional promise to my son is now explained. Ivan, you will not, I think, join the power which thus cruelly crushes us !”

The youth hung his head, and Rectzizi then pressed Mr. Leuhaupt to shelter himself and his family in the town of Dorpt, from the desolation which would soon inevitably sweep over the open country. “ It is there only,” said he, “ that you can now be secure ; for the storm is, I fear, rapidly approaching.”—

Mrs. Leuhaupt and her daughters (the tender appellation was now equally given to Phedora) trembled at this intelligence : the good pastor sighed, and regarding them with a look of affection, said that he would send the females to Dorpt under the protection of his own son : “ As for myself,” continued he, “ I cannot desert my flock ; they look up to me for support and comfort, and I ought not to fly from them in the hour of distress.”

Reetzizi combatted this determination with every argument that reason and friendship could suggest ; but Mr. Leuhaupt was immoveably fixt, and his wife and children obstinately refused to leave him. Yet, tho’ they would not profit themselves by the solicitous compassion of the young soldier, they reasonably supposed that Ulric Stenau and his wife could not have any such scruples, and the whole party immediately walked to their house, to communicate the melancholy necessity for their removal to Dorpt.—The wretched pair, shocked at their danger, which

which almost deprived them of recollection, enquired of Mr. Leuhaupt what he meant to do, and heard his intention of braving the storm, with confusion and dismay.—

They were now become accustomed to his society, and were used to receive the benefit of his advice upon every important occasion ; and in this instance, when their terrors rendered them helpless, they felt severely the separation which their safety enjoined.—

Whilst they mourned it with sincere but useless grief, the worthy minister recollected that he had not any right to involve Phedora in the danger himself and his family chose to incur, and proposed that Ulric and Mrs. Stenau should take her under their protection, and that she should accompany them to Dorpt. Phedora turned extremely pale whilst he spoke, nor were her young companions less concerned than herself : she fell at the feet of Mrs. Leuhaupt, but the agony of her mind prevented the petition she meant to prefer. Rectzizi was affected with her emotion, and Mr. Leuhaupt, who

understood the prayer she strove to utter, assured her of his undiminished regard and love, and that the request he had made to her good friends the Stenaus, arose from the interest he took in her welfare. They readily assented to the proposal; for since the death of their son, they had conceived an affection for the young orphan, which her own merit, joined with the circumstances of the moment, had concurred to heighten.—Phedora thanked them with tears for their former bounty, and their present kindness, for which she professed the most fervent gratitude. “But it is still more engaged,” she added, “to these dear friends, without whose tender compassion I should never have been in a situation to have attracted your notice. Alas, I cannot quit them, perhaps for ever!—My dear, and only mother!” exclaimed she, turning towards Mrs. Leuhaupt, “let me remain with you; I will be your servant—I will labour incessantly that I may not be a burthen to you, and I will follow you all over the world—I will die

with

with you !” The good woman folded her to her bosom, and with flowing eyes looked towards her husband, in a manner that seconded the entreaty of Phedora. “ Be it so !” cried he ; “ I meant not to wound your affectionate heart, by the plan of separation I thought in humanity and justice we ought to submit to : but, my dear child, if you will share our fate, our arms are still open to you, and our hearts I trust will never be shut against you ”

Phedora received the assent with the most rapturous expressions of joy, and embracing Catherine with the utmost fondness, poured out her exultation that they should not be parted from each other. Ivan, who during the controversy had experienced a thousand contrary fears, now felt the pleasure which her continued society would give him, combated by alarms for her safety ; and Rectzizi breathed many half-stifled sighs at the probable sacrifice in which her too tender gratitude had engaged her : he once more,

and with yet greater earnestness, urged Mr. Leuhaupt to preserve the lives of his family in security, by consenting to accompany their flight : but he remained steady to his purpose, and the young man with a very dejected air was obliged to prepare for his departure.

Just before he left the village, he put a purse into the hand of Mr. Leuhaupt. — “ I have no occasion for this,” said he, “ and you, my revered and worthy friend, must be much straitened by the distress and desolation, which on every side assail our unhappy country.”—Mr. Leuhaupt felt the truth of the last part of Rectzizi’s speech ; but he refused the purse, observing, that as Cassimir could not receive supplies from his family, he was too well acquainted with the many occurrences in which he would feel the loss of what he so generously offered to part with. The young man asserted that it was not a part of his pay, but an unexpected booty ; and he would not be denied the pleasure of appropriating it as he had intended,

tended, the first moment it came into his possession.

After a long contest Mr. Leuhaupt was compelled to a compromise, by dividing the money with Rectzizi, who put up his share with an air of mortification; and recollecting that his time was already exceeded, he tore himself away. The good man and his family followed him with their eyes, until he was no longer visible, and then, with hearts rather heavy, returned to the house of Mr. Stenau, to assist his removal. His own boat was to carry him up the river Embac, as the least dangerous and least fatiguing mode of proceeding to Dorpt: it was laden with every thing he could conveniently take; yet above two thirds of his stores were still left behind to the mercy of the spoilers.—Mr. Leuhaupt was charged with the care of these, and as misfortune had softened the heart of Ulric, the family were desired to use them as they might be wanted.

When the peasantry beheld their beloved pastor and his children busily employed in loading the boat, they imagined he was going to leave them, and assailed him as he returned to his own house, with tears and lamentations, bewailed their destiny, and gave themselves up to sorrow and despair. It was some time before he could calm their fears, and enforce belief to his assurances that he would never desert them; but as he had shared their better fortune, so would he drink with them the cup of affliction. The most joyous acclamations followed his words, and the poor people blest the tender goodness of his heart, which thus relieved their woes by participation, whilst the wisdom of his counsels lessened their misfortunes.

In three days the Stenaus were ready to depart: they wept on quitting their habitation, and affirmed with foreboding fears, that they should never see it more. Mr. Leuhaupt would have comforted them; but the effort only aggravated their grief, by reminding

minding them, that they could not in any future emergency find relief in his society, from which in all probability they were about to be separated for ever. Having lingered some time, they at length embarked on what appeared to their timid and affrighted imaginations, a long and perilous voyage.

The good minister and his family, now left to themselves, awaited with alternate hopes and fears, the tremendous crisis which Rectzizi had apprized them was at hand: every time the wind whistled in hollow blasts through the neighbouring wood, fancy gave to their view the naked sword of the relentless soldier, and the firebrand ready blazing to destroy their dwelling. Mr. Leuhaupt would yet have forced his wife and children to accept the proposal of Rectzizi; but they vehemently refused to leave him, and vowed to share his fate, tho' the falchion of death, which it is not given to human eyes to behold even when the stroke is felt, should be visibly impending over his head. His piety,

which was ever regular and steady, was now more than usually fervent ; yet his countenance, though grave and thoughtful, was serene, except when a reverie surprized him, and his eye unwittingly fixed with too long a gaze upon his affectionate children and their tender mother, and then a pang seized his heart, which all his fortitude could not conceal.

Catherine was terrified with every sudden motion or sound, and trembled even at her shadow : but Phedora, though her fears were almost as strong, looked upon herself as a volunteer in the cause, and thought if she betrayed her emotions, Mr. Leuhaupt might perhaps revoke his permission for her stay with them, and send her to Dorpt as he had originally proposed : the dread of this gave her resolution to hide the apprehensions she felt, and to assume an air of composure that struck her friends with admiration.— Ivan would often ask if she did not repent having been left with them ; and when she affirmed

affirmed that she never could, he experienced such transports of gratitude and tenderness, that his father could no longer fail to observe the passion he knew not how to conceal or suppress, and regretted that it should have received birth under circumstances so inauspicious: his further remarks, however, led him to discover that Ivan's love was unreturned, and only noticed as the affection of a brother by the object that inspired it.

Phedora was now in her seventeenth year, and both her disposition and person unfolded each day a sweeter grace: description may fall short of the loveliness it attempts to paint, and it may perchance exceed it; but it can never give it to the fancy so amiable, as fancy, unassisted, would picture it to herself: suffice it then that Phedora Rubenski was most lovely.

A fortnight passed from the departure of the Stenaus, without any further cause for apprehension, than what their own fears suggested;

gested; but at the end of that time their alarms were coloured with greater probability: some peasants at work at the entrance of the village, suddenly flew homeward with intelligence, that a great number of Russian soldiers were approaching at a full gallop.—The horror this news created, extended from roof to roof, and deprived every individual of the power of reflection. The villagers assembled instinctively before the door of Mr. Leuhaupt's dwelling, as if his presence could have protected them: he armed himself with fortitude, and surrounded by his family, came forth to teach them how to die, if such were to be their immediate fate, as his example had instructed them how to live. He soothed and encouraged the unhappy peasants, who conscious that their secret wishes had never favoured the Russian arms, expected the same punishment inflicted upon the inhabitants of some of the neighbouring places, who having openly promoted the retreat of a Swedish detachment, had been inhumanly put to the

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the sword by the pursuers. Yet agitated as they were, they could not but applaud, and at length resolve to imitate, the cool intrepidity of their pastor, whose destiny was equally disastrous with their own; but who could yet with apparent calmness look forward to an event, which only in idea, nearly annihilated them.

The military party so much dreaded, soon entered the hamlet, and finding every cottage deserted, rode with their sabres drawn up to the place where the villagers were assembled, and their leader with a haughty air, demanded if they meant to resist. His voice and menacing attitude, and the naked weapons which glittered on the eye, spread the utmost consternation through the trembling throng. Mr. Leuhaupt made an effort to advance towards the commander of the troop; but before he could obtain his attention, an unhappy peasant, for some unintentional offence, was struck to the earth by one of the Russians: his blood, which
flowed

flowed in torrents, infused a sort of desperate horror into the minds of his fellow villagers, who each expected that his turn was coming, and they all flew with frantic eagerness to seize some weapon of defence; nor could the earnest remonstrances of Mr. Leuhaupt recal their scattered senses, or arrest the mad efforts which hastened their destruction. Alternately he addressed his own people, and spread his hands towards their incensed foes with eager supplication: but the most ungovernable frenzy had taken possession of the first, and the last despised his impotent mediation. Ivan had hitherto been withheld by the united efforts of his mother and the affrighted girls, from heading the peasants, and directing the defence they meditated: at length however, he escaped from their arms, and was flying forward, when his father observed the fury that sparkled in his eyes, and throwing himself in his way, forbade him as he feared his curse, to accelerate the ruin by his rash folly. The youth suddenly stopt at these tremendous words,
and

and pointing to the beloved objects he had just quitted, "Ah, my father," he exclaimed, "would you see them murdered?"—"I would not," returned Mr. Leuhaupt, "and I therefore command you to retire with them into the house: if it should be invaded with a sanguinary intention, you may there defend them." Then observing the irresolution of his son, "There is no time to be lost," he added—"I will be obeyed."—Ivan immediately turned back with a dejected air, to execute his commission. The unequal engagement had already begun, and the sabres of the troops, with never failing certainty, hewed down their feeble opposers, whose desperation equally disregarded the hoofs of the horses and the weapons of their riders. Mr. Leuhaupt rushed into the thickest of the contest, and with adjurations of mercy, endeavoured to arrest the arm uplifted in vengeance, when a wretch more brutal than the rest, resented his presumption in daring to catch at the bridle of his horse, and gave him the chastisement

tisement he had intended for another. The peasants at length perceived their good pastor covered with blood, and still striving in a feeble voice to allay their rash transports, and save them at the expence of his own life: this sight in a moment quenched their fury, and they no longer heeded or felt the blows of their butchers. Mr. Leuhaupt however, observed them, and besought their compassion to the wretched Jew who yet survived their temerity. The commander then ordered his men to desist, and asked with an imperious mien, if the villagers yet refused to quarter them, or if the troops of his sovereign would now meet with the attention and respect which must otherwise be enforced. This demand brought on an explanation, by which it appeared that the apprehensions of the sufferers had been without foundation, as the troops had been merely sent amongst them to be accommodated with lodging until further orders: but the peasantry in general had been so intolerably oppressed by these locusts, who devoured all their substance and
cruelly

cruelly maltreated them, that it was by no means uncommon for them to obtain their allotted quarters, by a severe and bloody contention.

When the desperate resistance of the poor villagers was once subdued, they submitted in passive silence to their conquerors, who took up their abode where and how they pleased. Mr. Leuhaupt having staid to see the soldiers disperse about the village as they thought proper, directed some of his parishioners to take care of their wounded comrades, and carry off the bodies of those who were slain; and then, almost sinking with pain and weakness, he crept slowly to his own house, from the neighbourhood of which the fury of the contest had considerably carried him.

His family had been unable to wait the event with any patience; and Ivan, in spite of his father's threat, had sallied forth to seek him: but following the soldiery, who
had

had rode from the scene of action, he had missed him, and all he could learn was the afflicting intelligence of his wound. Mrs. Leuhaupt's alarm was encreased by the lengthened absence of her son ; she rose up in great agitation to seek her husband herself, but totally unnerved, sunk down again without the power of crossing the threshold ; Phedora then leaving her to the care of Catherine, hushed all her fears for her own safety, in apprehension for the life of her revered friend, and rushed out with a wild and rapid step to ascertain his fate.— As she flew forward, she knew not where, with mingled grief and terror in her aspect, she was met by four or five soldiers, who surrounded her with looks of curiosity and admiration : she struggled to pass them, and in trembling accents entreated their pity.— The men, however, unmindful of her efforts, still continued to gaze at her, and one of the party caught her hands to prevent her escape : dreadfully terrified, she uttered a piercing scream, and the next moment Ivan Leuhaupt

Leuhaupt appeared, with rage and indignation in his aspect. When he beheld the situation of Phedora, he felled to the ground the man who had seized her, and opposed himself with undaunted courage to the sabres which were instantly drawn to avenge the insult. Phedora threw her arms round him, and begged for mercy; but that she could have obtained it for him would have been very doubtful, had not an officer, who was just arrived with a detachment of the same regiment, perceived the commotion and advanced to demand the cause of it.—He was exasperated at the pusillanimity of the men in attacking a youth unarmed, who from that circumstance did not appear to have provoked the combat; and dismissing them to their quarters with a severe reprimand, escorted Phedora and the liberated Ivan to their dwelling.

Here they found Mr. Leuhaupt, who had directed his wife and Catherine to bind up the gash which was upon his shoulder, and
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he was then waiting in great anxiety the return of his son and Phedora : their presence relieved his uneasiness ; but his appearance excited the grief of Phedora, who had not yet heard of his wound. The officer, on entering the house, enquired if he had not the pleasure of being in the family of Mr. Leuhaupt, and being answered in the affirmative, he produced a letter, which he said had been entrusted to his care by Lieutenant Rectzizi.

This billet informed the good minister, that his young friend had in vain endeavoured to be sent on the service, in the course of which, the bearer Captain Lumerski, would often be enabled to enjoy the happiness he ardently longed for, that of being admitted to the society of Mr. Leuhaupt's amiable family. When the worthy man had proceeded thus far, he stopt, and taking the stranger by the hand, " You are doubly welcome to this humble roof, my dear Sir," said he ; " the accidental circumstance which
first

first introduced you to it, must ever ensure our respect and gratitude, and the recommendation of Lieutenant Rectzizi will always be followed by my esteem."

Lumerski was charmed with the urbanity of Mr. Leuhaupt, and not less pleased with his wife and the young people : they earnestly wished him to take up his abode with them, but were restrained from proposing it, from the fear of not having the power to accommodate him as he might expect. On his part, the apprehension of causing them inconvenience, was combatted by the certainty of being able to shelter them from every insult, by making their house his quarters, and he ventured to hint at the measure. Mr. Leuhaupt, to remedy the only objection he could urge against it, sent Ivan, with a strong caution to conduct himself in a pacific manner, to the deserted house of Ulric Stenau, to bring from thence all that was necessary to lodge their guest with comfort.

The

The young man however soon came back with intelligence, that the Colonel of the regiment had taken possession of it, and he had not been suffered to execute his commission. Lumerski observing that this disappointment gave Mrs. Leuhaupt uneasiness, professed that he was not to be so easily repulsed, and returning himself to the charge, received permission of his commander to remove what he did not want for his own immediate use. On re-entering Mr. Leuhaupt's habitation, he found the family in great agitation ; for the good man could not hide from them the extreme pain he felt from his wound. Lumerski begged that the surgeon of the regiment might see it, and went himself to procure his attendance ; but it was discovered that he was quartered at a hamlet two or three versts distant, and the examination was necessarily postponed till the morrow.

The family soon found the benefit of having the friend of Rectzizi for their guest ; for he would not suffer them to be incommoded

moded with any other, and effectually prevented any noise or disturbance from reaching the invalid : from his recommendation too, the wound Mr. Leultaupt had received was soon in a fair way of healing, and his strength, which had been rather reduced by an accompanying fever, gradually returned.

As the summer was not yet quite past, it became necessary that the bodies of the unhappy peasants who had fallen victims to their precipitation, should be interred without delay, and no consideration could induce the worthy pastor to defer the duty of reading the service over their remains. He went therefore to their graves, supported by Lumerski and his son ; and when the rites were ended, he took the opportunity which the occasion presented, of exhorting the survivors to restrain the impetuosity of passion, and ever rely on Providence alone to redress those wrongs, which whether real or imaginary, could not be lessened by reciprocal outrage. The villagers heard him with their

accustomed reverence and attention ; nor were the soldiers who happened to be near, totally unmoved at the scene, when they recollected the behaviour of the minister during the affray : the cool and undaunted contempt of danger he had shown, his earnest endeavours to save the lives of his mistaken people by exposing his own, joined to the pious and pacific disposition he manifested, gave them so high an opinion of him, that from that moment they never failed to compliment his appearance amongst them with every external mark of respect. Lumerski, struck with admiration of his conduct, could then allow that the enthusiastic veneration of his friend Rectzizi did not proceed from collateral causes ; but gave him the merit of sincerity, when he had professed for the good man all the love and respect due to a parent.

It was impossible to remain in the family of Mr. Leuhaupt without feeling a daily encreasing esteem and attachment to it :—

Lumerski

Lumeriski experienced this very fully, and was unable to contemplate their many amiable qualities, without being exceedingly anxious that they should escape the destiny they awaited with such heroism. His friend Cassimir had informed him of his unsuccessful effort to engage them to fly to Dorpt; he knew the outrages they would be liable to endure, when he was compelled to quit the village to follow his regiment, and he could not think upon the subject without emotions of horror which he communicated to Mr. Leuhaupt, and laying before his alarmed imagination the situation of the females, whom it would not be either in the power of husband or brother to protect, he urged him to secure their safety by thinking of his own; and since it was not in his power to render any material service to the villagers, he was bound Lumeriski said, by every tie, to preserve the honour and lives of his family, whilst the attempt was possible.

H 2

Mr.

Mr. Leuhaupt sighed deeply, and shrunk from a picture he had never before ventured to consider so attentively. Again he warmly entreated his wife and children, and still they refused to shelter themselves whilst he abided the storm. Lumeriski was much hurt at the obstinacy of both parties, and the good minister, had he not given his promise to his people not to desert them, felt that his resolution would have been overcome by the representations of his guest. Ivan meantime endured the utmost agony of mind between affection for his father, and tenderness to his mother, his sister, and Phedora.

Whilst the question was still agitated with earnest vehemence, Lumeriski with a small detachment of the regiment, were suddenly ordered to a distant village by their Colonel. He was shocked at his precipitate departure, and immediately waited upon his commander to recommend the Leuhaupts to his protection. The curiosity of this officer was interested by the description of Lumeriski,
who

who was very eloquent in their behalf, and he promised to think of them as his friends.

Rather elated with the success of his application, Lumeriski returned with a lighter heart, to take leave of his hosts and prepare for his journey. They learnt the news with unfeigned sorrow, nor could the promised condescension of the Colonel console them in the least for the loss of their guest. During his residence with them, Catharine and Phedora had learnt to look upon him as their brother : and even Ivan, who observed that he was equally attentive to the two girls, or if there were a difference, that his sister was apparently the most cherished, not only regarded him without jealousy, but was become much attached to him.

On the morning of Lumeriski's departure he took Mr. Leuhaupt aside, and confided to him a secret he had not long discovered himself:—" I have gained," said he with a forced smile, " many worthy friends by my

residence in your charming family ; but, my good Sir, I have lost my heart in exchange, and I mean to beg your permission to make known my love to her who inspires it, and entreat your interest in my behalf." —

" You may probably know," returned Mr. Leuhaupt gravely, " that she is an orphan entrusted to my care by her last surviving friend ; but I must likewise inform you that those charms of mind and person which conciliate universal kindness, are the only good she can boast of possessing in this world, since fortune cannot have dealt by any one more cruelly than by our poor Phedora."

" You do not comprehend me," said Lumeriski eagerly, " it is your daughter who is most dear to me, and whose heart I covet."

Mr. Leuhaupt expressed his surprise at the choice of his friend.—" Catherine is, indeed, a good girl," added he, " but as you are so vulnerable, I am surprised that you could shield yourself from Phedora's attractions."

" No

“ No matter how I was shielded,” interrupted Lumerski smiling, “ it is as I have said: the amiable Catherine can alone secure my happiness, or deprive me of it for ever.”

Mr. Leuhaupt, after thanking him for the confidence he reposed in him, expressed his wishes that the knowledge of his partiality might be limited to himself alone, until his daughter were a little older, and fortune more propitious to her family. “ But I had almost forgotten, continued he, “ to advertise you that she is equally as poor as Phedora; and it might be as imprudent in you to charge yourself with a portionless wife, as it would be ungenerous in me to encourage your disinterested love.”—Lumerski would not suffer him to proceed; but again offered himself to her acceptance, and laid before her worthy father the state of his fortune and expectations in life. Mr. Leuhaupt acknowledged that they were far above his hopes, yet still he urged his wish that Ca-

therine might remain ignorant of his prepossession in her favour until they met again.—The lover reluctantly consented, and seeking Mrs. Leuhaupt and the girls, told them at parting, that he hoped to see them soon at Dorpt, where, provided they had nothing further to dread, he would find means to evade their threatened banishment to Astracan.

CHAP,

CHAP. VI.

- “ Why I can smile, and murder while I smile ;
“ And cry content to that which grieves my heart,
“ And wet my cheeks with artificial tears,
“ And frame my face to all occasions.”

LUMERSKI had scarcely left the house two hours, when Colonel Rimbach's approach was announced : he introduced himself by mentioning the recommendation of their late guest, from the desire he had to be of service to a family so extremely amiable as they had been represented by him.—He then condescended to apologize to Mr. Leuhaupt for the ill-treatment he had received through the misapprehension of his men, and enquired if his wound were healed. Having been answered in the affirmative, he imme-

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diately

diately turned to Mrs. Leuhaupt, and congratulated her upon being the mother of such lovely daughters ; and without waiting for a reply, demanded of Ivan, who was provoked and confounded at the freedom of his remarks, why he was not in the army ? Mr. Leuhaupt replied, that he designed his son for the church. “ That might do in peaceful times,” observed the Colonel ; “ but I would now advise him to try his fortune in an army where merit alone is advanced : I want such a young fellow in my regiment ; if he will serve, and is a brave lad, I will venture to promise him promotion very shortly.”

Mrs. Leuhaupt could no longer refrain from expressing her reluctance to this plan.— “ My good woman,” exclaimed the Colonel, “ we never take the opinion of mother’s upon these subjects ; if we did, our ranks would be so damnably thin, that a cannon ball might pass from van to rear without meeting with any obstacle by the way.”— This sadly very much shocked Catherine and
Phedora,

Phedora, who could not imagine how it was possible for a man to be so unfeeling as to sport with the tender apprehensions of a parent : highly disgusted with their visitor, they were rising up to steal away, when he assumed an air of complacency, and desired to know when he should take them out in his sledge. Mr. Leuhaupt gravely answered, that situated as they found themselves at present, his girls felt no inclination to leave their mother, whose spirits required their support and society. Unabashed at this denial, the Colonel immediately offered to join the party whenever he could find leisure, and insisted in return that they should resort to his quarters, where he should be most happy to receive them.

After a visit which was universally judged uncommonly tedious, he at length thought proper to depart, leaving an impression of disgust and impatience on the minds of the little domestic circle he had quitted, such as they were not often accustomed to feel. On returning to those whom he condescended to make

his confidential companions, Col. Rimbach, launched out in repeated praises of Phedora, whom he swore to make his own, and gave particular orders to one of his subalterns to spare no pains to entrap young Leuhaupt, whose disapproving looks had not been unobserved; not that he feared the opposition they menaced to his designs, but that the insolent pride of the youth might be properly humbled, and that he might be taught by experience that the will and pleasure of his superiors must be to him a law.

Such was the man to whom the desperate situation of the Leuhaupts had compelled Lumeriski to recommend them. The father of Rimbach was a German who had entered late in life into the service of Russia, and brought up his son to the military profession from his infancy; they had recommended themselves to the Emperor Peter by their activity, skill, and the strictness of their discipline: such men as these the great Legislator wished for, to command his untamed
4 Russians,

Russians; and Colonel Rimbach had been rapidly promoted to his present rank, which he could never have obtained had many other qualifications been further required in addition to those already stated.

Though he could sometimes divest his manners of the stiff pride imputed peculiarly to those from whom he was descended, the effort only drove it back for the moment to its source, where swelling his bosom with twofold importance, it rushed forth on the first opportunity with added vehemence.— He blended the vices of the Russians with those he inherited from nature, and in his propensities was become almost as brutal as the savages his Imperial master was labouring to humanize.

Mr. Leuhaupt felt his soul revolt from any communication with that of Rimbach, and lamented the well-meant precipitation of Lumeriski in introducing his family to the notice of this man, from whose sight
Phedora

Phedora and his daughter had till this visit, been sedulously preserved, by a strict injunction never to venture abroad upon any emergency however great. Ivan executed all their commissions in the village, and two or three days after the appearance of the Colonel at the house of his father, he was assisted in the most laborious part of his office, by a soldier whose officious assiduities were not to be repressed: his mien was prepossessing, and Ivan at length conceived a sort of regard for him, which his services and professions of attachment to Mr. Leuhaupt and his family appeared to warrant. Michaelhoff, so this man was named, had originally been of the Preobazinski guards, from which he had been degraded for some offence that had come under the cognizance of the sovereign; but as he was a good soldier, he escaped with life, and was now labouring to gain the favour of his new Colonel, though he could never hope to be again admitted into the most distinguished regiment of the empire. He had

had been remarkably well educated for a Rus, and possessed the most insinuating manners, which succeeded in procuring him the confidence and esteem of Ivan, who felt highly flattered by the professions of friendship the artful Michaelhoff perpetually assailed him with.

As they were conversing one day with careless familiarity, the Russian, as if he had suddenly recollected what he was about to say, laughingly told his young friend that the Colonel was in love with his handsome sister, and advised him to enter into the regiment immediately, as this circumstance, joined to his own merit, could not fail to procure him a rapid promotion. Ivan turned extremely pale at this intelligence, and asked with a faltering voice which sister was meant. "It is impossible for me to guess," returned Michaelhoff, "who have never seen either; but I hear that he says she is as handsome as an angel. Are both your sisters so very handsome?"—"No," replied he, in a peevish

vish accent, "at least I do not think so—I cannot say—how did he name her?"—Michaelhoff professed that he could not answer this enquiry; and then hastily left the youth in an agitation and distress of mind too apparent to escape the slightest observation. He immediately returned home, and seeking his father communicated to him the information he had received of the insolent attachment of Colonel Rimbach to Phedora, for he made no doubt but she was the object of it, and warmly besought him to secure her honour by confiding her to the care of Ulric Stenau at Dorpt.—"Perhaps," said Mr. Leuhaupt coolly, "Rimbach means to make her his wife."

"I cannot think it," returned Ivan with precipitation; "and even if he does, is he not unworthy of her?"

"Phedora may not think so; and have we the right to controul her inclination?"—

"Good heavens no! but I am sure she detests him."

"It

“ It may be so,” returned Mr. Leuhaupt with the same apathy ; “ and I now recollect some instances of a prepossession in favour of Rectzizi.”

Ivân had never before been so displeased with his father : he trembled with a variety of emotions, and his changing countenance proclaimed a part of what he felt : at length unable any longer to combat the anguish that preyed upon his heart, he threw himself into the arms of Mr. Leuhaupt and burst into tears. The good man waited in silence the explanation he had meant to promote, and Ivan did not disappoint his wishes ; he avowed his love, and earnestly entreated to be immediately united to Phedora, as a barrier to the projects and presumptuous wishes of Colonel Rimbach. Mr. Leuhaupt appointed the next morning to argue with him upon the subject ; and he readily agreed to defer the discussion until then, as he plainly perceived that the confidant he
had

had made, was not inclined to favour his request.

On quitting his father, Ivan strolled into the village in search of Michaelhoff, in order to obtain from him more ample intelligence, such as might, by exciting Mr. Leuhaupt's apprehensions for Phedora, the more readily induce him to assent to the measure proposed. He wished not to create artificial alarms however, nor indeed did he imagine that the most extensive fears for the safety of the lovely little Rubenski could go beyond what the villainy of Rimbach's character seemed to him to promise. Michaelhoff was not to be found, and Ivan having in vain sought him every where, walked to and fro, scarcely knowing what he did, with an air the most dejected and his eyes fixed upon the ground. In about an hour he returned to the quarters of his new friend ; but he was told that he was then upon duty. His mind was too disturbed to notice that
it

it was a very unusual time for him to be absent, and being half frozen, for the winter had set in, he walked hastily towards his father's dwelling, determining to renew his visit to Michaelhoff early in the morning.

He had not walked an hundred paces, when he jostled a soldier standing immediately in his path, and whom his absence of mind had prevented him from observing.—The fellow in a storm of rage, instantly drew his sabre, which he was prevented from using by the efforts of one of his companions, who seemed inclined to excuse the offender. Ivan in his present mood, was not disposed to put up quietly with the abuse and menaces that assailed his ears, and entreated the mediator to lend him his weapon, that he might be upon equal terms with his adversary, whom he swore to fight to the last drop, for endeavouring to take advantage of his being unarmed. This request was refused, and an accommodation proposed by
the

the pacific foldier, who invited them to bury their animosity over a flask of brandy which he offered to produce. Ivan desired to be excused from participating in the debauch; but presented his hand to the person he had so undesignedly offended, as a token that he acceded to the first part of the proposition. He was informed however that his amity would not be accepted, unless he agreed wholly to the request, and his antagonist was again becoming violent, when Michaelhoff crossed them, and enquired the cause of the contest. When he had heard it, his opinion was required by the two parties, and he peremptorily decided that Ivan must indulge his comrades by accompanying them to their quarters, where he would rejoin them in half an hour, for he was then executing a commission for his Captain: as he walked off, he charged the soldiers not to suffer Ivan to leave them till his return; and the youth, thus compelled into the measure, submitted with as good a grace as he could assume.

His

His family mean time began to be alarmed at the unusual length of his absence, and Mr. Leuhaupt, wrapping himself in his fur cloak, went out to seek him : he proceeded to the lodgings of Michaelhoff, with whom he knew his son had contracted an acquaintance, and found the treacherous Rus in high spirits, drinking with a comrade ; but he instantly denied all knowledge of Ivan's motions, excepting that he had seen him pass, he said, about an hour back towards his Colonel's habitation. Mr. Leuhaupt felt the utmost terror at this intelligence, when he reflected upon their last conversation, and hastened the same way, winged by parental anxiety. Here he was again disappointed of meeting him ; yet notwithstanding his earnest wishes to renew the search, Colonel Rimbach insisted that he should sit with him, whilst he dispatched a messenger to find the truant youth.

Mr. Leuhaupt compelled himself to remain some time listening to the nonsense uttered

tered by his host, who was exceedingly intoxicated ; when unable any longer to controul his impatience, he represented the anxiety his family would experience at his delay, and suddenly made his escape before Rimbach who was incapable of pursuing him, could prevent it. The good man imagined that Ivan might now be returned home, and flew thither with all the speed he could make ; but when he found his family as he had left it, save that their uneasiness was considerably heightened, he forgot the restraint his tenderness imposed on his feelings in the presence of his wife, and clasping his hands he eagerly exclaimed,—“ Where can he be ! has he then not been here ? ”—The poor mother, unable to articulate, shook her head, and Catherine wept aloud.

Mr. Leuhaupt now severely reproached himself with having infused into the mind of his son those jealous suspicions his last conversation had given rise to ; and Phedora,
who

who watched his countenance, was alarmed at the expression it exhibited. She went to him, and took his hand with a look that was meant to comfort him.—“ Alas, poor Ivan !” exclaimed he as he gazed upon her. Mrs. Leuhaupt inexpressibly shocked at these words, wildly demanded if he concealed from her any evil tidings : he assured her that he did not ; and again starting up, went out to procure if possible intelligence of a consoling import.

He repeatedly traversed the whole village, and at length passing a cottage rather apart from the rest, was attracted towards it by the sounds of revelry and drunkenness. Supposing that Ivan might have been drawn in to partake of this Russian festivity, he knocked for admittance ; but finding no notice taken of the signal, he gently opened the door, and the first object that struck his eye, was his son laying near it, bound and apparently senseless.—This spectacle, so shocking to the eye of a parent,

took from him the power of venting his agony in words, and he silently advanced towards the unhappy youth, to examine into his situation and endeavour to relieve him: he released his limbs from the bandage, and raising him in his arms, perceived that he was nearly suffocated.—“ Oh wretches! Assassins!” exclaimed the good man with sudden fury, “ why did you wish to murder him?”

The party, who had been too much occupied in their revels to observe his entrance or subsequent motions, started in surprize at this unexpected ejaculation, and the distressed father beheld in one of the countenances then turned towards him, the features of the treacherous Michaelhoff. This man was not so hardened but that he felt some little confusion at the unwished-for presence of Mr. Leuhaupt: his remorse was however momentary, and re-assuming the air of joculariry he had worn a few instants before, he endeavoured to palliate the condition

condition in which Ivan had been found, by saying that he had become so outrageous from the effects of intoxication, that they had been compelled to bind him for their own security.

Mr. Leuhaupt shook his head with an aspect severe and incredulous, but scorned any other reply : he then made an effort to remove his son, but was prevented by Michaelhoff, who averred that he was answerable for him, as he now belonged to his corps and had been entrusted to his care by his officers. The unhappy father was thunder-struck by this cruel intelligence, which reduced him almost to the state in which Ivan still remained : at length recollecting the proffered friendship of Colonel Rimbach, and hoping that a sense of shame would prevent him from seconding the vile stratagem of his men, he was rushing out to seek his dwelling, when the senseless situation of Ivan occurred to his mind and arrested his steps. The agony in which he had left his

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family now assailed his imagination, and encreased his misery, whilst the terror he conceived lest he should himself have contributed to the catastrophe, by filling the bosom of his son with anguish and jealousy, compleated the gloomy retrospect.

The morning twilight began to quiver over the hemisphere with encreasing force, and Mr. Leuhaupt beheld the wretches around him drop one by one into a heavy slumber : even Michaelhoff, after a few efforts to keep himself awake, was compelled to give way to the leaden power that oppressed his senses.—As the good man surveyed the insensible brutes thus sinking under the intoxication they perpetually courted, he sighed deeply that his darling son should be found amidst the groupe.

At length he perceived that Ivan breathed with a freer respiration, and after many ineffectual attempts to restore him to his recollection, he succeeded so far as to awaken him.

him. The youth surveyed the objects before him with a wild and ghastly stare, and was for some time deaf to the voice of his father: he started when it met his ears, apparently shocked at his presence, and Mr. Leuhaupt was equally so at the hasty and unmeaning glances he cast around him from time to time. Many minutes passed before he could in the least comprehend the enquiries the good man made, and many more elapsed ere he could recollect the circumstances which had reduced him to the disgraceful state from which he was emerging. That he had been trappanned into it and unfairly dealt with, was very evident from the unconnected narrative he gave; but he could scarcely believe that Michaelhoff would have been so great a villain, until Mr. Leuhaupt repeated his short conversation with him the preceding night.

“Leave me,” exclaimed Ivan in a fit of desperation, “leave me to my fate: yet tell me, how is my mother—where are Phe-

dora and Catherine? Do they know you are here?"

"No," replied Mr. Leuhaupt in great distress, "but I must hasten to them; I fear the anguish they have endured from suspense has been poignant indeed!"

"Fly to them then my father, tell them to forget me—tell them I am lost, I am dead to them!"

"I will not leave you," interrupted the good man, "in this state of mind; and unless you will be more calm, I cannot relieve their sufferings."

This argument immediately affected the change Mr. Leuhaupt was most desirous of seeing, and having exacted from Ivan a promise that he would remain quiet till his return, he flew to his own house, where his presence was never more wanted nor more welcome. The anxious wretchedness of Mrs. Leuhaupt's mind had shaken every nerve, and now from mere debility she waited in silent despair the intelligence, of which
scarcely

scarcely any doubt remained upon her mind, that Ivan had lost his life in a fray with the imperious soldiery. Her daughter and Phedora passed the miserable night in listening at the door for the steps they longed to hear, and sometimes they ventured to open it notwithstanding Mr. Leuhaupt's injunctions to the contrary, to peep through the twilight, that they might hasten to their mother the news of his desired return. Phedora first heard his approach, and darted out to meet him; but when she beheld his haggard looks, and saw too that Ivan was not by his side, the welcome faltered on her tongue, whilst her enquiring eyes were turned with involuntary motion, to the utmost extent of the path Mr. Leuhaupt had just traced.—“He is safe” said the good man, who understood her; “but you cannot yet see him: how is my wife?”

“She has been ill,” replied Phedora:—
“thank heaven you are returned, and Ivan is safe!”

Mr. Leuhaupt dreaded to break the inauspicious news to the fond mother, of the misfortune of their son : he considered it to be such from the profligate brutality of those with whom he must henceforth associate, and from the disposition of his Colonel, which his discernment had immediately penetrated.

Mrs. Leuhaupt however, considered the evil as much less afflicting than the greater one she had feared ; and found it less bitter than would have been his eternal loss.—The good man chose not to awaken her hopes by informing her of his intended visit to Colonel Rimbach : indeed it was only during the first confusion and anguish of his mind, that he had himself preserved any idea of success from the effort, which still he would not neglect. Under pretext therefore of returning to Ivan, he again quitted his own house, without taking either rest or refreshment, and found the Colonel preparing to exercise his regiment, a duty from which no antecedent

antecedent circumstance was of sufficient force in his own opinion to exempt him.

Mr. Leuhaupt appeared before him with a countenance in which fatigue and anxiety were deeply impressed : before he could make known his petition, Rimbach pressed him with a gay and unembarrassed air, to accompany him to the parade ; then praising the exact discipline of his men, " I am told," added he, that I obtained last night a prize in a fine young fellow of a recruit, whom I am to see presently."

" It is upon his account," returned Mr. Leuhaupt, " that I now address you ; the transaction by which he has lost his liberty will not well bear the light. I hope upon a representation of it, you will do him justice, and if he serves his country at the expence of his blood and life, let it at least be with a free will."

The Colonel felt exasperated at the boldness of the expostulation, too impudently

just to be seriously argued upon. He had thought proper to affect ignorance of the name of his young recruit, that he might not be implicated in the transaction of which Mr. Leuhaupt complained; and as he had other views to serve in not grossly offending the good man, he disguised his rage under an appearance of conviction.—“ Yet what can I do !” exclaimed he; “ if the friends of this inconsiderate fellow have employed you to intercede for him, they are wrong; were he my brother I could not release him: my credit, my fortune, nay my life depends upon the strict fulfilment of my duty, and if I attend to the numerous petitions and remonstrances that pursue me daily in the performance of it, I should scarcely have a man to command.”

Mr. Leuhaupt sighed, and stifling the answer that rose to his lips, endeavoured to withdraw: but Rimbach catching him by the arm, again asked if he would not accompany him to the parade. “ No;” returned

turned he, "I had rather accompany my son thither."

"It shall be as you please, certainly.—Tell me how are your charming daughters? I shall be at your house in an hour or two, to conduct them a few versts in my sledge."

"Excuse them; their grief is too poignant from the event of last evening."

"Do you mean the frolic of my men—how can they be concerned in it?" asked Rimback, affecting an air of surprize.

"Your recruit," replied Mr. Leuhaupt with a gleam of hope, "is their brother Ivan."

"Is it possible! well my good friend if it is so, I will take care of his advancement: let that conviction calm your unaccountable inquietude; and if the pretty Catherine and her lovely sister have shed any tears for this event, I hope to bid them cease. Will you walk with me?"—Mr. Leuhaupt was unwilling to offend a man on whom so much depended, and complied however reluctantly.

I 5

When

When the regiment was drawn up, Ivan was presented in form to his Colonel :—he wore an air of determined composure, and beheld his father without any apparent emotion. With the same mien he received the condescension of his commander, who reiterated the promise of a speedy promotion, if he should not be deceived in the merit of the young man. When this ceremony was over, his quarters were assigned to him by the proper officer, who informed Ivan that the mighty sovereign of Russia had been a drummer in his own army, and encouraged him to hope for a reward equal to the exertions he should make to deserve the favour of this great man.

He was at length permitted, after a tedious delay, to visit the dwelling of his father, from which he had been so unwillingly torn, and approached it in a better mode than Mr Leuhaupt had dared to hope. His mother, who imagined that she should not have beheld him so soon, received him

him to her arms in a transport of tenderness and maternal love, whilst Catherine and Phedora could hardly suppose, as he was neither altered in dress or person, that he was already become a soldier ; but they were extremely afflicted to find that he must reside elsewhere than under his own roof.

When Ivan had passed two short hours with those he most loved, Mr. Leuhaupt reminded him that his duty called him away. " Although the situation you are in," said the good man, " was not immediately your choice ; yet my dear son, I hope you will accommodate your mind to what you cannot shun, and employ your attention to merit the approbation of your officers by the exact fulfilment of every assigned duty, and an emulation to deserve the promotion of which you have received the conditional promise."

Ivan assented with a sigh, and as his sister and Phedora accompanied him a few steps

from the door, he made them promise to inform him with precision of every word which fell from the lips of the Colonel, whenever he paid them a visit. Without knowing the motive of his request, they consented to it, and Ivan then departed with less reluctance. He suspected that Rimbach had discovered from some person in the village, that Phedora was not his sister, and had removed him from her as a rival to his love : in reviewing the means by which he had been drawn into the snare, he could not but imagine that the conduct of the soldier, whose affected resentment had produced the quarrel, had been preconcerted, and that he was, as well as Michaelhoff, but an agent in the affair : nor was the surmise unjust, for his pretended friend, on finding his intelligence and advice received with evident consternation and even anger, had immediately abandoned the idea of accomplishing his purpose by persuasion, and had laid the plan which so well-succeeded.

Mr.

Mr. Leuhaupt had encouraged the self-deception of the Colonel in supposing the engaging orphan to be his daughter, as he did not wish him to know that she had no legal protector, lest it might be made a pretence to deprive her of that his affection afforded her, that she might become an easier prey to the wretch whom her beauty had attracted.

Ivan had scarcely been gone ten minutes, when Colonel Rimbach appeared at the good minister's door in a sledge, and entering the house with the easiest familiarity, averred that he came to claim the company of Catherine and Phedora in his morning ride.— They excused themselves however with a modest denial, which he refused to listen to, until Mrs. Leuhaupt sanctioned it by her applause, as becoming both their situation and their years.—“ I must not,” said the prudent mother, “ permit them to forget their poverty and humility: in their innocent recreations, they have hitherto only
mixed

mixed with people of their own rank, nor do I wish my daughters to associate with any other, lest they should cease to practice that industry which can alone render them respectable."—The Colonel finding himself unable to carry his point soon, withdrew, with a determination to punish the prating insolence of the old woman, as a hint that her future complaisance would be more seasonable.

In compliment to the wishes of his father, as well as in pursuance of his own plan, Ivan attended with rigid exactness to the instructions of his corporal, which were sometimes rather brutally delivered : but the docility and diligence of the young recruit at length overcame the ferocity which nature and habit equally claimed in the behaviour of the Rus, and Ivan becoming rather a favourite, was declared to be a clever young fellow.

He

He still found time to fly to his father's house in the intervals of his duty, and soften his absence by every attention to lighten the labour he was wont to take entirely from his sister and Phedora : every action of the latter now became doubly interesting to him, and he hung upon her words with the fondest predilection. He heard of the visit of his Colonel with the most poignant uneasiness, repeatedly asking the little informers, if nothing else had been said by him more than they reported, and at every negative he still questioned them anew if they did not conceal something from him. Surprised at his excessive incredulity and suspicion, his sister and Phedora found their curiosity aroused to discover the meaning of it ; but when in their turn they put any enquiries to him, he instantly evaded them, and dropped the conversation. He now sought opportunities of seeing Phedora unobserved by his father, whose sentiments he dreaded to hear upon the subject nearest his heart : Mr. Leuhaupt had not urged the discussion, which the unexpected

expected alteration of Ivan's situation had prevented for the moment, because that very situation seemed to forbid for the present any indulgence of the hopes he had formed; and he was unwilling to torture the mind of his son by now enforcing those arguments which must, he thought, be sufficiently obvious to him, without the aid of any judgment but his own. The good man could not repent the generous impulse which had originally constituted the little Rubenski a part of his family, though this circumstance had naturally produced in Ivan those sentiments he could not but disapprove; but which, so strangely blind are men to events the most to be expected, he had not foreseen. Mrs. Leuhaupt, to whom he revealed the confession he had wrung from their son, had already suspected the fact, and lamented with her husband the many moments of anguish and disappointment this unfortunate prepossession would cost him.-- This worthy pair still retained hopes of being one day enabled to recall the attention
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of the beneficent family of Rectzizi to their orphan charge ; for her sake therefore, they were unwilling to encourage a union which promised to overcloud her future life with the most abject misery, independent of the certainty that under the present pressure of misfortune, it could not form the happiness of their son.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

“ Himself to me he but too soon disclosed,
“ From point to point relating his intent ;”
“ Who, whilst I stood struck dumb with this invasion,
“ Pursued me strongly with his rough persuasion :—
“ Art thou not mad, quoth he, to see a coffer—
“ Fill’d up with gold, and profer’d, to refuse it ?
“ So far that thou want’st reason to excuse it.”

A few days after the last visit of Colonel Rimbach, Ivan rushed into his father’s house, with a countenance of despair that struck his family with consternation.—“ I must be torn from you,” he cried ; “ I am ordered to a village many versts from hence. Phedora I shall never see you more ; you will learn to forget me, and Rectzizi will be happy !” Both Phedora and Catherine felt the utmost surprize at this apostrophe ; but Mr. Leuhaupt and his wife, who alone comprehended what he meant, were too much shocked at the intelligence he announced,

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to feel displeasure at the unguarded effect it produced on the unhappy youth.

“ And do you really think,” returned Phedora, weeping at the charge, “ that I shall ever be so ungrateful as to forget you, or any part of this dear family, who have cherished my unprotected youth with such sweet affection ? No, Ivan, no ; I shall ever remember you and all the kindness you have shewn me ; and Catherine herself shall not love you more than I will.”

“ Will you indeed love me ?” exclaimed Ivan.

“ We all love you,” interrupted Mr. Leuhaupt, “ and we shall all lament your absence from us ; but I flatter myself we shall be able to teach you in this event, the fortitude you appear to want. It was not to be supposed my son, that you could always dwell under the paternal roof : or even if no circumstance had intervened to remove you from it, in the course of nature your parents must be taken from this earth long before you : submit then to a separation which is
only

only severe because it happens a little earlier than you had reason to expect perhaps, yet with this extenuation that it may only be temporary."

"Let us hope so, my beloved Ivan," said Mrs. Leuhaupt, struggling with her own grief that she might subdue some part of his; "without this consoling idea, heaven knows with how much keener anguish my heart would be overwhelmed. At your return——"

"Ah my mother! at my return shall I find you all as I leave you? Will Phedora remain to console you for my absence—will she not quit you for another protector?"

"Cruel Ivan!" said Catherine, with some resentment; "see how she weeps at what you say!"——Mr. Leuhaupt dreading any further explanation, checked the emotion of his son by a look he well understood, and then took him apart to endeavour to reason him into silence upon a subject which could only give pain, when made known, to the gentle heart Ivan wished to possess.

He

He was to leave the village the next day; but he could not bear to think of departing, without first obtaining the forgiveness of Phedora for the tears he had made her shed. He meant to obey the injunctions of his father, and suffer her to remain ignorant of his attachment, but still he wished to converse with her in the presence of his sister only; and early in the morning he watched near the house to catch a glimpse of them in their usual avocations, when by a signal they were acquainted with, they could discover his vicinity to them. The effort succeeded, and Catherine flew to his arms; but Phedora was more distant, and seemed to retain a little anger at his conduct of the preceding day. The sorrow that appeared in his aspect, soon however, dispelled the unusual cloud, and he received the pardon he solicited: yet it had scarcely passed her lips, and his anxiety on that point dispersed, than his jealous fears returned, and he could not refrain from importuning her concerning Colonel Rimbach and Rectzizi. He dreaded
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the power of the one over the person of Phedora, and the influence of the other over her mind : she grew weary at length of his recurring so perpetually to the same theme, and entreated him to speak no more of the Colonel, whom she heartily disliked.—

“ And do you dislike Rectzizi too ?” cried Ivan in a reproachful accent—“ Ah no, no Phedora ! I know too well how you regard him !”

“ Do you think I am in love with him ?” she asked with the utmost simplicity.

“ In love with him !” repeated he in great agitation.

“ Yes, you found out that Catherine was, you know ; yet he did not save her life.”

“ I would to heaven he had taken mine when first I saw him !” exclaimed Ivan with a look of desperation. “ Deceitful, cruel Phedora ! you own to me then that you love him !”

Catherine now exerted her influence to moderate the transports of her brother : for
Phedora,

Phedora, on whom he had never before cast such angry glances, was too much frightened to utter a syllable. At length her sorrow, which was all the emotion she usually felt for injurious reflections, broke into tears, and he then conjured her to dispel the anxiety that tormented him, lest in his absence she should unite herself to Rectzizi. It would be impossible to paint the astonishment which the countenance of Phedora exhibited at this request: her blushes and hesitation increased the tempest in the bosom of Ivan, and she entreated him to be more calm, and she would say and promise every thing he wished.—He was not slow in making use of this concession, and instantly endeavoured to extort from her trembling lips an affirmation that she would not marry Rectzizi, if chance should again bring them together, and he should urge her to the measure. In vain for some time did she almost unconsciously evade it, by representing the improbability of both these circumstances; Ivan was relapsing into extravagance,

gance, and she was obliged to comply : but though she gave the promise to his importunity, there was something within her bosom which remonstrated against it, and she became uneasy both with her own conduct and that of Ivan : he could not fail to perceive it in her countenance, and his eagerness to remove the unpleasing impression, betrayed the secret he had promised his father to conceal.

The knowledge of his attachment, so different from the brotherly affection which alone Phedora had expected from Mrs. Leuhaupt's son, added to the distress and confusion of her mind, and she was far from being sorry when the voice of his father obliged Ivan to fly, before he had drawn from her any further concessions, which her judgment, young as she was, and her heart equally condemned.

When the day was a little advanced, and the party of which Ivan was one, was preparing

paring to march, he snatched a moment to give his mother a parting embrace, and take a last look of the dwelling in which he had so happily passed his childhood and his youth: there a thousand images reminded him of the progress of his love, where a thousand circumstances had occurred to feed its growth; he sighed at the retrospect, and turned from the future with disgust and apprehension. Whilst he indulged a lingering emotion of regret, Michaelhoff appeared, who informed him that the troop was assembled, and his absence remarked. Ivan received this officious good office with a coolness he had not varied from, since the too apparent treachery of this pretended friend; and being well convinced that his present solicitude proceeded from a wish to observe what passed at the farewell, he restrained the anguish that preyed upon his heart, and bade his family adieu with a firmness that disappointed the views he had so well penetrated. He could not at parting, distinguish Phedora from his sister, but by the tender

pressure she alone perceived ; yet he found means to entreat his father to be watchful for her safety, and to be aware of Rimbach. Ivan then departed with Michaelhoff, who would not lose sight of him, and left his family overwhelmed with grief, which in his presence they laboured to restrain.

In a country so agitated and distracted by different powers, Mr. Leuhaupt well knew there could not arise any opportunity of hearing from him, except from the most accidental circumstances ; as even the promise Lumeriski had made at parting, of informing him of his destiny, he had not been able to fulfill : Rectzizi too, who appeared so much interested in their welfare, now seemed dead to them, and they knew not if Ulric Stenau and his wife were yet in being. Thus abandoned to their fate, the Leuhaupts looked forward to the first appearance of summer with dread and terror ; for at that period, the regiment which Colonel Rimbach commanded, was to leave them ; and though
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it oppressed the wretched inhabitants in that and the neighbouring villages, yet at least it prevented the flying excursions of the Cossacks both in the pay of Russia and Sweden, whose invariable object was plunder, and the means however horrible and sanguinary, were never too much so for their fierce and relentless minds.

Rimbach, after the departure of Ivan, repeated his visits to the family he had so cruelly distressed, without the least remorse or discomposure ; and though his presence was become hateful to them all, they were compelled to receive him with an appearance of complacency they each day found it harder to assume. Mr. Leuhaupt repeatedly charged his wife never to suffer Phedora to leave her a moment, when he was hovering near their habitation, and steadily to refuse indulging him in his continued requests to take her out in company with her friend Catherine, however he might importune her to that effect ; yet notwithstanding all her caution,

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his mind was harrassed with fears which the opening character of the Colonel but too well justified. He appeared each hour less guarded in his admiration of Phedora, who invariably shrunk from his notice with increasing abhorrence: but it could not repel the boldness of his advances, which her beloved friends and protectors beheld with helpless inquietude.—They were indeed wholly in his power, and whilst they strove to avoid the familiarity of intercourse which he courted, they were obliged to preserve every mark of respect and attention, which could alone secure them from the exercise of that power he sometimes delighted in recalling to their recollection, by relating to them instances of tyranny he had exerted over their fellow villagers, whom he rigorously punished according to martial law, for offences neither intended nor understood.—Mr. Leuhaupt could not so far contradict his feelings as to listen to these exploits with any degree of complacency: his silence and the gravity of his countenance explained
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what passed within, and gave a momentary check to the arrogance he could not wholly repress.

It was generally after one of these recitals that he attacked Phedora with more open gallantry : nor could all her efforts then disengage her hand from his grasp, or detach his eyes from her face, where they never failed to call up blushes of mingled anger and distress. Michaelhoff, whom the whole family excessively disliked, was now the constant attendant of his Colonel ; and whenever Rimbach was drinking at his own quarters, this ready spy was generally dispatched once or twice to Mr. Leuhaupt's house, with a message or some trifling present. Nothing indeed but the superior accommodations the house of Ulric Stenau afforded, could have prevented the Colonel from taking up his abode in the apartment Lumeriski had occupied ; but Michaelhoff, who knew his ministry would not then be so much required, represented so forcibly the inferiority of the

minister's dwelling, that Rimbach became unwilling to give up the few comforts he enjoyed in his present lodgings. By degrees however, he would take his food only with the Leuhaupts, and as his table was much better supplied than theirs, he imagined the benefit they derived from it must far exceed any inconvenience or trouble he caused them.

The precautions Mr. Leuhaupt had charged his wife to observe, she so well attended to, that neither Michaelhoff nor his employer could baffle her vigilance by surprising Phedora or Catherine without the unwished for society of her husband or her own; until one day the good man was called to attend the last moments of a neighbour, and his daughter accompanied him to carry to the little children the bread they were importuning their dying parent to give them; but as Colonel Rimbach could not feel any interest in an event from which he could not possibly derive any satisfaction, Mrs. Leuhaupt was obliged to busy herself as usual
for

for the arrangement of his table. Phedora, who had given up the more pleasing employment her friend Catherine was now pursuing, was occupied with the same care, when Rimbach unexpectedly entered and found her alone. Joy flashed from his eyes at this unusual piece of good fortune, and seizing her hand that she might not escape him, he asked "if she were willing to render the situation of her friends as happy as their wishes could aspire to make it, could they chuse for themselves."

"It would be the greatest transport I could ever experience," replied Phedora, much surprised at this address, and extremely impatient to learn in what manner this desirable object was to be accomplished.

"Charming girl!" exclaimed the Colonel, "I love you, and ask your heart in return: meet me at the cottage under the tall pine, and I will explain myself further."

Phedora was too much confounded and terrified at this abrupt declaration to make

any answer, but as she endeavoured to get away, he earnestly repeated the request.—

“ I cannot, indeed I cannot,” she replied ;

“ I never go so far without Catherine or my dear mother : but I will tell them what you say—perhaps they will accompany me.”

“ Mrs. Leuhaupt is not your mother ;— I have discovered it from the good old woman Petrowna, who informed me of more than you supposed she knew.”—She blushed at this intimation, which she imagined related to Ivan, and her confusion was not unnoticed by Rimbach, who pursuing his advantage, told her that he might perhaps be acquainted with some part of her family ; “ and if it should happen so,” continued he, “ I shall certainly take you to them when I quit this village.”

“ I hope not,” said Phedora trembling ; “ I have no other friends than those you would take me from ; nor can I remember one other, except my mother and my grandmother.”

“ How

“How were they named?” demanded he with eager enquiry.—Phedora now imagined that he intended to entrap her, or that he actually might know some one of her name, and withdraw her from the Leuhaupts under that pretext; she hesitated therefore, and at length asked if Petrowna had not informed him.—“No matter, said Rimbach hastily, “I wish to hear it from your lips.”—Those lips had ever been accustomed to utter but the truth, and were little used to evasion: she replied in a tremulous accent that her mother’s name was Alexiowna.—

“And that of your grandmother?”

“She was called the widow Rubenski: her name was Eudocia.”

“Rubenski!” repeated he in a musing tone, “was she a Livonian by birth?”

“I do not know.”

Mrs. Leuhaupt, who came to seek Phedora, now relieved her from a conversation so painfully supported on her side, in which she imagined her own words would be made

the means of condemning her. The good woman started on beholding her agitation, and guessed in part the subject that had so much discomposed her.

Upon the entrance of Mr. Leuhaupt, Rimbach shook off his reverie ; but Phedora remained pensive and uneasy, and her eyes, which she cast with looks of tender affection alternately upon each of her beloved friends, were often filled with tears. When the Colonel left them she unburthened her full heart, and repeated with exactness what had passed to give her the apprehensions she could not avoid entertaining, lest he should happen to have known, or pretend to know any part of her family, whose poverty and obscurity were now her only consolation.— Her narrative made a deep and very apparent impression upon Mr. and Mrs. Leuhaupt ; they regarded each other with glances the most expressive, and Phedora concluding that she was undone, wrung her hands and wept bitterly ; whilst Catherine

in equal consternation, examined the countenance of her father, to discover if possible whether the evil were irremediable. He was immersed in thought and had not even observed the grief his profound silence created in the poor orphan, till her sobs became too audible to escape notice; humanity then prompted him to relieve her terrors, altho' his own were not less poignant. The good man had before dreaded the tyrannic violence of Rimbach; but now his apprehensions had another source: he feared that to get Phedora into his hands, he would call to his aid the outward form of justice, and revenge at the same time upon her protectors, the opposition he had encountered from their vigilance. This alarming supposition however, and the secret consciousness that gave rise to it, he concealed from his daughter and her young friend; Mrs. Leuhaupt alone participated in it, because she alone was acquainted with his motives for being thus terrified.

Before any of the family had recovered the shock, Michaelhoff found means to intrude upon them on some trivial pretence : his keen glances discovered the emotion they wanted to hide, and added to the misery of their situation, by compelling them to aim at a composure every look and action contradicted. Rimbach appeared the following day in high spirits, and was more than usually condescending ;—but Mr. Leuhaupt thought he discovered an air of triumph in his gaiety, which confirmed the opinion he had conceived from the questions he had made to Phedora : no explanation however took place, nor did his formidable guest appear to recollect the conversation, but from those transitory signs the eye of suspicion alone can catch.

In this state of anxiety and dark distrust with respect to the design of Rimbach, Mr. Leuhaupt continued for some time ; this only appearing certain, that his prepossession for Phedora daily encreased, and he rather
affected

affected to display it to her friends, than conceal it from them.

At length the winter suddenly broke up much earlier than usual, and the event was at hand which must elucidate his intentions beyond a doubt. The regiment prepared to quit the place without knowing their destination; and the heart of Phedora and those of her generous friends began to beat with encreasing alarm. On the day preceding his removal, Rimbach appeared as usual at the house of Mr. Leuhaupt, and without any previous information, demanded if the family were ready to accompany him. The good man felt the shock this abrupt requisition spread to every bosom, and immediately conceived that expostulation or refusal would be of no avail; yet he could not forbear mildly to enquire upon what motives the Colonel undertook the care of their emigration.—“Those of friendship and humanity, my good friend,” returned Rimbach: “did you imagine I could leave you in this wretched

wretched place to be massacred or to starve; or that I should suffer these lovely girls to be made the prize of some Cossack chief, to pass their lives in mending his tent and watching his flocks?"

Mr. Leuhaupt sighed, but made no reply:—the Colonel then turning to Mrs. Leuhaupt, observed the tears she was not able to repress, and reproved her for shedding them, when her countenance ought in gratitude, he said, to be illumined with joy. She ventured to enquire what would be their destination, and if she should have the happiness of again seeing her son.—“By no means,” cried the unfeeling Rimbach; “I mean to give him an opportunity of digesting his milk; and then if he is kept a year or two upon the fare of a soldier, we shall make something of him. I shall go quite a contrary rout to that I made him take: our first movement will be towards Dorpt.”

Mr. Leuhaupt felt anxious about the mode of travelling which should be prescribed.

bed to them ; for his wife he well knew, was not capable of enduring much fatigue, and the Russian troops were become famous for the rapidity of their marches, and the indefatigable constancy with which they pursued them. He therefore questioned Colonel Rimbach upon the subject, who merely said that he had provided for the contingency.

Mrs. Leuhaupt, her daughter and Phedora, now busied themselves in collecting of their little property all that was portable, whilst the good man went round to his parishioners to inform them of his forced and abrupt departure. The news spread an universal grief throughout the village, and his parting blessing, which he separately bestowed upon each individual, was followed by tears and loud lamentation : they would have risen to oppose the tyranny which tore their good pastor from them, and once more have presented themselves to the sabres of their oppressors, but he restrained their im-

potent

potent rage, and enjoined them to the practice of that patience he had so often taught. Even Petrowna, whose unwary tongue had created so much uneasiness in his family, Mr. Leuhaupt visited with cordiality and kindness; and had her indiscretion proceeded more from intention than imbecility, at such a moment he would have thought of it no more.

When he returned home, he heard from his wife that Phedora was missing, and as she had not been accustomed lately to leave the house even upon any emergency, and as Catherine, from whom she never concealed a thought, was ignorant of her evasion, a sudden apprehension arose in his mind that she was in the power of Colonel Rimbach.—Mr. Leuhaupt hastened to his abode in the utmost distress to ascertain her fate, and protect her as far as he was able. But in this instance his suspicions were unjust; he found Rimbach seated at his bottle, conversing with Michaelhoff, to whom he appeared.

peared to have been very liberal of its contents : they were both indeed, far from being sober, and the voice of the Colonel was to be distinguished long before his person was visible. Mr. Leuhaupt hearing his own name pronounced in an accent of mirth, stopt for a moment in an attitude of irresolution, for he felt his temper harrassed as he had been, rising into warmth, and he feared to trust himself that moment in the presence of a man he had so much reason to dislike. As he deliberated, he heard Rimbach say in a tone of raillery, " Shall we dispatch Leuhaupt and his wife and their cub to Siberia, or make them join the Dorpt party to Casan."

" No matter which, my noble Colonel," replied Michaelhoff, " provided you obtain the pretty Phedora, they may then travel to Kamschatka."

The good minister was shocked at the deliberate villainy of these men, whom a similarity of mind had united in spite of their
difference

difference of rank, and found himself suspended between the desire of confounding them by his unexpected presence, and the fear of injuring his family, if he inconsiderately tore away the mask which vice delights to place between herself and the virtue she hates.

“ Let me leave him the battery he has so consciously erected,” said Mr. Leuhaupt as he withdrew, “ lest finding his designs exposed, he should no longer preserve any measures with us, but hasten the ruin he has planned.”—He was tolerably certain that Phedora was not in the house, and an idea now struck him he was surprised he had not thought of before—that she had flown to pay her last duties at the grave of her grandmother, which the snow had rendered invisible for five months before. He therefore turned into the place of interment, and walking up to the narrow spot which marked where the good widow Rubenski lay, he found it had very lately experienced the

he cares Phedora was wont to give it.—
“Poor girl!” exclaimed he; “what monument could so well have deserved your pious love, as this constant and unremitting testimony of veneration! May the inauspicious destiny which accompanied this unhappy parent through life, be no longer felt by her orphan child—the last of her race. When I can no longer protect her, may providence supply her with a more able defender!”

Mr. Leuhaupt turned his steps homeward as he ended this prayer, and found the object of it eagerly looking out for his arrival. She deprecated his displeasure for having passed the limits prescribed to her, and lamented that his absence had prevented her from acquainting him with her purpose, which she feared, she said, Mrs. Leuhaupt would not have consented to without his concurrence.—“Ah my dear Sir,” continued she, “I thought every moment an age till I went; and I fancied if this evening passed away
without

without affording me the opportunity I fought, that I should never again behold the sod."—

"Say no more, my child," interrupted the good man; "you have done well: I have seen the object of your sacred cares, and I applaud them. If I have appeared to restrain you, it was from the paternal anxiety that occupies my heart equally for you as for my Catherine, which induced me to wish you both secluded from a licentious soldiery, who are too well instructed in our defenceless situation, to regard the decorum your sex and youth demand."

"Ah my father," exclaimed Phedora,—
"if I never experience a more harsh restraint than that your kindness imposes upon me, of what shall I have to complain? How sweet to me is the guidance you assume! I have only to pray that I may never want it."

This speech recalled to Mr. Leuhaupt's mind the conversation he had overheard, and the tear started to his eye; but he determined

mined to conceal the discovery from his family, who were already sufficiently terrified at the dark future, without this addition of alarm and affliction. He made them retire early to rest, yet they assembled in the morning with looks that betrayed how ineffectual had been the caution. Shortly after, Colonel Rimbach appeared, and informed them that he had with some difficulty procured a shallop to take them to Dorpt, where he should arrive long before they could get there, and be ready to receive them at their landing.—Mr. Leuhaupt checked the emotion the presence of this man created, and enquired when he must embark.—“ Directly,” replied Rimbach; “ I wait but to see you under sail : these fellows,” added he, pointing to two soldiers who accompanied him, “ will aid your removal, and carry what effects you can conveniently take. I would advise you not to forget your furs, for we may possibly travel northward.”

Mr.

Mr. Leuhaupt's memory assisted him to comprehend this hint, which from the well-known disposition of the Colonel, he could not prevail upon himself to believe the effect of humanity, but rather an overflow of exultation over the wretches his brutality had devoted to destruction. Mrs. Leuhaupt and the weeping girls silently produced their little stock, with which Rimbach charged the men, and then unfeelingly urged the instant departure of the poor family, who gazed with affectionate regret upon the humble roof which had so long sheltered them:—Mrs. Leuhaupt burst into tears, and her husband turned aside with a deep sigh.

At length the importunities of the Colonel prevailed, and they turned their backs upon their dwelling: as they quitted it, a number of the villagers advanced to gaze upon the little forlorn party who had ever been their comfort and refuge in every former distress; but before they could satisfy their wishes in taking a last farewell, the
anger

anger of Colonel Rimbach burst into a torrent of abuse at their folly, and drove them back to their huts, where they wept in secret with their children, whose fate they bitterly deplored : Mr. Leuhaupt then supporting his wife, led the way to the lake where they were to embark for Dorpt.

How different were the feelings of Phedora and Catherine, when they last tripped with light hearts through the same avenue of cedars, in that little excursion to which they owed the acquaintance and friendship of Cassimir Rectzizi :—instead of Ivan, the detested Rimbach now accompanied their steps, whose presence forbade the communication of those emotions that swelled their bosoms, and they could only regard each other with expressive looks which were mutually understood, and urged forward the tears before ready to flow.

The Colonel oppressed Phedora with his hated attentions ; he walked by her side, and
seizing

seizing her unwilling hand, reproached her for the sorrow she was unable to restrain, which he said was an ungrateful insult upon his protection and his present cares for her welfare. Her heart was too full to permit any reply : the tears continued to roll down her cheek notwithstanding the eloquence of Rimbach, who reprobated the wretched spot where she had hitherto existed, and endeavoured to arouse her curiosity by the description of comparative luxuries and magnificence, such as she had never seen. As he was warmly proceeding in his panegyric, Phedora suddenly stopt, and eagerly gazing at her native hamlet, which at that moment came in view, pointed it out to Catherine, whose memory however did not require any stimulation to retrace the scene in which Rectzizi had once appeared so amiable.— They were both silent and forgot to move forward, until Mr. Leuhaupt turned to discover why they did not follow. Rimbach laughed at their childish regret, and asserted that they would be astonished when they had

had viewed other places, at their former partiality to one so despicable.—“ My lovely Phedora,” continued he, “ who has hitherto lived amidst undistinguishing peasants, will then learn better to value those eyes whose lustre she now dims with such useless tears.”

Mr. Leuhaupt heard the speech, and looking upon her with tenderness and compassion, endeavoured to avert the persecution that embittered her sorrow, by questioning Colonel Rimbach concerning the route of Ivan ; but his answer was unsatisfactory, and seemed purposely meant to distress and perplex the anxious parents. At length they arrived at the border of the lake, and found there, the shallop which had been prepared for them. Rimbach gave some instructions to two men who were on board, and then taking leave of the wretched party, waited on shore until the sails were spread, and they were a considerable distance from it.—Mr. Leuhaupt felt rather relieved when he released them from his society, and his

family now received a melancholy comfort from the uninterrupted communication of their sorrows. The good man endeavoured to cheer them with the hope of meeting Ulric Stenau and his wife at Dorpt, and tho' they could not now much contribute to remove the pecuniary evils he expected to suffer, yet he thought the mutual participation of similar misfortunes would blunt in some degree their edge, and render them to each other less bitter.

Catherine timidly asked her father, if he did not likewise hope to see Rectzizi at Dorpt :—" I fear we shall not," replied Mr. Leuhaupt ; " it is not likely, as the troops are perpetually in motion, that he should have been so many months in the same place : but if he should be there, how can he aid us but by ineffectual wishes, unless we suffer his generous soul to involve him in difficulties that can only encrease instead of alleviating our miseries. Perhaps his friendship for us might urge him to draw upon himself

himself the enmity of Colonel Rimbach, by resenting the advantage he has taken of our unlucky Ivan ; we will not therefore seek him for selfish gratifications, when he may probably become such a sufferer, were we to succeed in our researches."

Mrs. Leuhaupt assented with a sigh, which the name of Ivan ever challenged. Phedora and Catherine felt disappointed ; but their hearts approved the reasoning of their beloved father.

He had little hope that Rimbach would allow them sufficient liberty, upon their arrival at Dorpt, to cultivate any acquaintance that might render his designs more difficult of execution ; but this apprehension he was obliged to confine to his own bosom, together with the circumstance that gave it birth : it urged him indeed to sound the disposition of the men who conducted the shallop ; but he found them entirely devoted to the interest of their employer ; and as the

baggage and effects of Colonel Rimbach were on board, Mr. Leuhaupt knew not with what shocking and disgraceful accusations his malice and disappointment might induce him to follow his innocent family, if he could even prevail with the fellows to land them before they reached Dorpt, a favour their mode of behaviour rendered very doubtful to the good minister. The dread of such imputations made him drop his half-formed intention of engaging their compassion and assistance : relying therefore wholly upon that providence which never deserts the just, he awaited his fate with patience.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

- " To lasting toils expos'd, and endless cares,
" To open malice and to secret snares ;
" To malice which the 'vengeful foe intends,
" And the more dangerous love of seeming friends."

P. AFTER three tedious days of uncertainty and suspense, they arrived at the end of their little voyage ; but they were not suffered to leave the shallop until one of the men had landed, apparently to apprise the Colonel. Mr. Leuhaupt made no observation upon this restriction ; but his wife could not avoid expressing her surprise at it, and her fears lest Rimbach should design to separate them immediately from Phedora, who was dreadfully terrified at the suggestion, and conjured them not to give her up : she then deplored her poverty which increased

the distresses of her beloved friends, and begged of heaven rather to give her refuge in the grave, than permit her to be entirely thrown into the power of Colonel Rimbach.

Whilst Mr. Leuhaupt soothed her agitation, and endeavoured to quiet her alarm, Rimbach himself appeared, and with an air of triumphant joy welcomed their arrival: he conducted the wanderers to a small house he had procured for their residence, and then informed Mr. Leuhaupt that it was necessary for every person who entered Dorpt at that time, to give in their name and country to the Russian governor, and offered to accompany him to the person who received and registered such communication.

The good man complied with this intimation after some little reluctance, which he meant to have concealed, and Rimbach conducted him to a kind of secretary who took his deposition in form: but when Mr. Leuhaupt named Phedora Rubenski, "Observe,"

serve," interrupted the Colonel hastily, "that she is not a Livonian."

"Pardon me," said the worthy minister in great alarm, "she was born scarcely more than three versts from the dwelling I inhabited, in a hamlet under my jurisdiction."

"But her mother was a Russian," returned Rimbach, "and her father, as I am informed, a Pole, she cannot therefore be classed as a Livonian."

"I will consider of it," said the secretary rather embarrassed:—"My friend," added he, turning to Mr. Leuhaupt, "I have done with you."

The good man would have represented the desolate situation of the orphan, and have tried to interest the stranger in her behalf; but he soon found that his ear was open only to the more powerful Rimbach, whom it was evidently his wish to oblige.—He retired therefore with a heavy heart, too well comprehending the iniquitous plan of the wretch he had so justly mistrusted.

On returning to his family he would fain have assumed a serene countenance, but his anxiety would not permit it, and bitterly did he repent for her sake that he had listened to the fond entreaties of the young Rubenski to remain with his family, rather than accompany Ulric Stenau and his wife when they fled from the danger he had resolved to brave. Mrs. Leuhaupt and the girls perceived the increased uneasiness that clouded his countenance, and in trembling accents begged to participate in it.

“ It is I,” continued Phedora, “ who am the cause of this—I, who instead of softening your sorrows, am doomed to aggravate them. Ah I see by those looks of kindness and compassion, that it is for me your heart is grieved. Poor, wretched, destitute as I am, they mean to tear me from your arms, where I have been fostered so many years : Do not weep best of friends, for when I am lost to you all, my heart will break, and I shall not long be the victim of that man’s malice.”—Mr. Leuhaupt

haupt exerted himself to utter the consolation and comfort he was far from experiencing himself : Catherine and her mother could not second the effort, for they were equally alarmed with their poor Phedora, and almost equally needed the soothings her grief demanded.

The next morning Mr. Leuhaupt endeavoured to seek out Ulric and his wife ; fully determined if he succeeded, to confide the lovely orphan to their care, with injunctions to keep her concealed from every eye ; and thus draw upon himself the vengeance of Colonel Rimbach, which in the performance of what he considered as a duty, he had a soul to disregard. His researches, which he continued through the whole day, were however entirely fruitless, and he returned home fatigued and disappointed : the following morning he renewed them ; and in his absence Rimbach entered the house. Mrs. Leuhaupt received him with a grave aspect, and a civility evidently forced, and the coldness

of Catherine and her companion was still more apparent.

After he had enquired for Mr. Leuhaupt, "My charming Phedora," cried he, "where are those sweet fugitive smiles I have sometimes beheld on your countenance, when I have surprised Ivan in your company? He is far away you know, and you must now bestow them upon me."

"I do indeed know that poor Ivan is far away," replied she with some expression of resentment; "but I shall never cease to love him, as I have always done, with the affection of a sister."

"Does your heart," demanded Rimbach, "accord with the distinction your lips have made?"

"The heart of Phedora Rubenski is innocent and pure," said Mrs. Leuhaupt with severity; "may it never be corrupted by the incense of the wicked!"

Colonel

Colonel Rimbach regarded her maliciously, but recovering himself in a moment, replied that he joined in the invocation. "My pretty Phedora to charm me supremely," cried he, "must not in any respect be otherwise than she is."—In a few moments he enquired when Mr. Leuhaupt would return, repeating the question with an air that rather alarmed the good woman, who felt conscious that his errand would be far from pleasing to their tormentor. She informed him however that her husband was surveying the town, and she knew not when to expect him home. This answer was by no means satisfactory to the Colonel, who shortly after left the house with an air of anxiety he had never before worn in her presence.—They rejoiced at his absence, which left them at liberty to communicate to each other their alternate hopes and fears: but the latter were by far the more prevalent, when towards the evening they looked in vain for the return of the worthy minister.

It was late before he appeared ; yet thro' the fatigue and anxiety his countenance exhibited, Mrs. Leuhaupt discovered a gleam of satisfaction that brightened the general gloom. Catherine and Phedora hastened to set before him the dinner which they had not been able to taste, and he then informed them that he had some prospect of meeting with their old friends, from the assistance of a soldier who was a native of Odenpo, and had often passed through their village in his way to Pernaw, where he was formerly employed by some hemp-growers of his own town to dispose of their merchandize.—“This man says,” continued Mr. Leuhaupt, “that he can conduct me to the lodgings of our good friend Stenau, whom he saw about a week back ; but that he then talked of taking his wife to Pleskow, when an indisposition of which they both complained, would permit them. I would fain have fought them out to night, but I had wearied myself with my two days peregrination, and the honest soldier told me that Ulric, if he

was

was still at Dorpt, lived quite at the opposite side of the town: I was therefore obliged to wait till to-morrow, notwithstanding the pain of suspense."

It required all the philosophy of Phedora to think of a separation from her friends with any degree of resignation; yet did she not once suspect what Mr. Leuhaupt had too much reason to suppose, that her absence was likely to be of very long duration: she merely imagined that she must remain with the Stenaus until the researches of Rimbach were at an end, and then the two families were to be united as in those days of peace she so much regretted. The hint Rectzizi had given of their banishment to some far distant country, did not make much impression upon her memory, for she cared not where she lived, whilst she was permitted to live with those she loved.

The next day Mr. Leuhaupt again left his family, in an incertitude he hoped soon

to terminate: he preferred going to the quarters of the soldier rather than invite him to his own house, from the fear of his meeting the Colonel, whose eager enquiries and abrupt departure Mrs. Leuhaupt had related to him, and they consulted together upon the reason that must be given for his repeated absence should Rimbach renew his visit, which they fully expected he would. But unused as they had ever been to every species of deception, they could not frame any excuse that was likely to be received as a satisfactory one, and she found that she must be compelled to give the same answer as on the preceding day, to his irksome and imperious questions.

They were not mistaken in supposing that the Colonel would call: he entered their habitation with an air of suspicion that made Mrs. Leuhaupt tremble, and instantly asked to speak with her husband. "He is gone out," said the poor woman with a hesitating accent.

"Again!"

“ Again !” exclaimed Rimbach somewhat sternly ; “ what can possibly call him so eternally abroad in a place where he is an utter stranger—which way did he go ?”

“ I know not,” replied she in still greater confusion, “ I did not observe him.”

Catherine and Phedora shrunk from the fierce looks which Rimbach cast around him, and their terror appeared to him a symptom of guilt. “ I have done much for your husband, Mrs. Leuhaupt,” cried he, “ let him beware of ingratitude.”—So saying he left the house with an air of menace that struck them with consternation, more especially the unhappy Phedora, who hid her face in which a thousand painful emotions were struggling, and sobbed aloud. Mrs. Leuhaupt found herself agitated with varying apprehensions and wishes ; the safety of the little Rubenski now occupied her heart, and now the danger they would have to fear from Colonel Rimbach, if she were secreted from him. She was too much absorbed in her own uneasy reflections to try to soothe her

her : but Catherine, to whom she was inexpressibly dear, folded her arms round her young friend, and wept over her with the tenderest affection.

From this situation the return of Mr. Leuhaupt relieved them, and the satisfaction that beamed in his eyes banished for the moment every anxiety.—“ I have found them !” he exclaimed : “ Heaven has favoured our wishes. Our old friends were on the eve of their departure for Pleiskow, but they will receive and cherish our dear Phedora with all their former kindness.”

“ God be praised !” ejaculated Mrs. Leuhaupt.

“ Ah my father !” cried Phedora, “ what will become of you after these generous cares for my safety ! Colonel Rimbach has been here and threatened—I know not precisely what—but I cannot leave you to his vengeance, when I see it will be drawn upon you by your unexampled tenderness for me.”

“ My

“ My dear child,” replied the good man with a less elated aspect, “ you *must* quit us : it is necessary that you should. Be not unhappy for our safety ; the Almighty will extend to us his hand in mercy. Mrs. Ste-nau who loves you, is sick and requires your good offices ; I will conduct you to her to-night ;—do not weep—we may meet again perhaps on earth ; but should this be denied us, we shall assuredly meet in heaven, if we submit without murmuring to the transitory evils of this life, and do not draw them on our heads by neglecting those divine precepts which I trust Phedora, I have not taught you in vain : remember them ever my child in every action of your life, and you will amply repay our solicitude for your welfare, and every anxious wish we have formed for you, from the moment which gave you to our knowledge. Amidst the prayers you daily repeat, reflect upon those words, ‘ Thy will be done,’ and let them not be sounds which your lips alone have uttered. Dry up your tears, and let
a chearful

a chearful submission reign in your heart and appear in your countenance."

The admonition did not fail entirely in its intended effect ; for it checked those exclamations of anguish, which soften the heart by mingling self-compassion with the grief originally felt, and render the mind more susceptible, and less able to endure the storms of adversity. Phedora suppressed her rising sobs ; and when Mr. Leuhaupt ceased, she kissed his hand with respectful affection, and promised obedience to his injunctions. The remainder of the day therefore, passed in composed and silent sorrow ; and when the tears would rush into the eyes of Phedora, she withdrew precipitately, and returned with an aspect more serene. Catherine gazed upon her with stifled anguish, which only the fear of her father's displeasure would have limited to her own bosom ; and Mrs. Leuhaupt betrayed a mind more subdued by grief, than aiming to subdue it.

At

At length the good man in a solemn voice informed Phedora that it was time to depart, and cautioned her to hasten her farewell.—The poor girl agitated by feelings she was fearful of displaying, trembled and turned pale at the summons; her voice and her limbs failed her, and she sunk at the feet of Mrs. Leuhaupt whom she had meant to embrace, with all the duty and love her long maternal affection challenged from a heart so grateful. Mrs. Leuhaupt raised and revived her: “We shall meet again my dear Phedora,” said she; “my heart tells me we shall: sustain your spirits that you may become the support and comfort of our poor friends the Stenaus, for I am sure they will need it; and Catherine will endeavour on her part to supply to us your absence;—I pray to heaven that it may be a short one. Look up my dear girl, and rely upon that benevolent providence who will never forsake you.”—Catherine now claimed a parting embrace; but her tears choked the
adieu

adieu she strove to utter, and Phedora was equally speechless.

Mr. Leuhaupt took her hand and drew her away : she carried in a little bundle all that she possessed in the world, and he led her forth to seek another home. The twilight, though rather obscured by passing clouds, was yet strong enough to enable a person to distinguish the air and *contour* of a figure, and even with a curious glance, the features of the countenance : Mr. Leuhaupt therefore desired Phedora to conceal her face from observation, and turn away from the examination of any one they should meet, as he feared they might be encountered by Rimbach or Michaelhoff, or some person in their confidence.

They passed on with silence and caution to a considerable distance, when Mr. Leuhaupt suddenly paused at a turning, being doubtful if he had taken the right way :— whilst he looked round him in some alarm,

a man

a man wrapped in a military cloak approached with hasty steps, and the good minister in a low voice, desired Phedora not to speak. The stranger gazed at them as he passed, in a manner which made them tremble, and Mr. Leuhaupt without any further consideration, caught the arm of Phedora and hurried her forward. They walked to the end of the street, and found their progress obstructed by a large building they had not in their confusion observed. Vexed at this unlucky circumstance, the worthy man turned to retrace his steps, and the first object that met his eye was the stranger who had silently followed. His height was that of Michaelhoff, and Mr. Leuhaupt feared that he was discovered; yet not to betray himself inconsiderately, he turned from him and urged the faltering steps of his companion. They for proceeded sometime at a quick pace, anxious to distance their unwelcome and officious attendant; but which ever way they chose, whatever corner they darted round

round to avoid him, he still persevered in the same alarming observation.

At length they were challenged by a centinel, and Phedora who knew not that the phrase was a customary one, then gave herself up for lost: Mr. Leuhaupt discerned their tormentor immediately behind him, and conscious that his voice must betray him, felt almost equal agitation. The centinel repeated the question, and the stranger made some answer, which the terrors of Phedora and her conductor prevented them from hearing:—the soldier however saluted him with respect, but the clattering of the musket caused by the action, almost took from the affrighted girl the power of motion. Mr. Leuhaupt now imagined that it was Colonel Rimbach himself who pursued them, to detect the attempted evasion, and the more completely to ensnare them. This supposition made him resolve to return if possible to his own house; and acquiring calmness from the recollected justice of his intentions, and the
flagrant

flagrant cruelty of his persecutor, he looked round him with precision, and discovered that he was very near the dwelling of the Stenaus, and that his steps were no longer watched. This last circumstance altered his determination, and cheering the heart of Phedora with the intelligence, he therefore hastened on, and they soon found themselves at the end of their unpleasant expedition.

Ulric and his wife waited their appearance in great anxiety ; for Mr. Leuhaupt had informed them of the motive that induced him to ask their protection for the lovely orphan. They received her with much affection, and professed themselves thankful for the relief her society would afford them. Phedora tried to suppress her grief which she considered as an insult upon such kindness ; but her spirits were weakened by her recent terrors, and it was only an effort.

Ulric told Mr. Leuhaupt that he meant to embark the next day for Pleskow, where
a relation

a relation of his wife had resided for some time, and that he had engaged to go on board one of the vessels which conveyed arms and ammunition from thence to Dorpt. He would have pressed the good man to remain with them that night; but he pleaded the anxiety of Mrs. Leuhaupt and their daughter, to learn that Phedora was safe: and then tenderly embracing the lovely orphan, he left the house. She retired soon after to a bed Mrs. Stenau had provided for her, and gave a free course to the melancholy reflections that assailed her. Cast entirely upon the compassion of her new friends, and deprived by the malice of her destiny of the protection of those her heart most cherished, she now deplored with keener sorrow her destitute state, and bitterly felt all its severity.

Early in the morning she rose to assist Mrs. Stenau in removing her effects to the vessel: the principal part of the baggage was already there, every thing was soon adjusted, and

they were on board expecting every moment to sail, when a civil officer of the town and some of his attendants, ascended the deck and demanded an account of the passengers. Phedora shuddered at this inauspicious enquiry, and her heart beat with violence when Ulric pronounced her name and country, after he had made known his own and that of his wife.

“As you are Livonians,” said the magistrate, “I must not permit you to leave Dorpt: my instructions on that point are indisputable; and I would advise you my friends, to unship your luggage before the sloop is obliged to sail, or you will probably never see it again.”

The Stenaus looked aghast at this information, of the truth of which the authority was too respectable to doubt: after some moments therefore, of irresolution and distress, Ulric endeavoured to procure assistance that he might profit by the advice of the of-

ficer : but this he found difficult to be obtained, for every hand on board was fully employed, and he was compelled to bring himself, upon deck every thing within the compass of his strength to carry. The boat which brought the magistrate to the vessel, was to carry back every Livonian he met with, and as he had collected three or four fugitives from some other sloops, there was very little space left in it for baggage of any sort. Mrs. Stenau, whose life until lately had been unmarked by reverses of any description, the more keenly felt the anguish of the present moment, and she wept abundantly; and even Phedora, relieved as she had been from her fears concerning her own personal safety, could not behold her grief without an answering emotion; but she assisted Mr. Stenau to remove the most valuable of his effects into the boat, and whilst they were thus busily employed, the sloop received a signal to sail immediately, and however reluctant, Ulric was obliged to quit it, before he had quite compleated his task.

This

This diminution of his property, before only the wreck of what it had been, sat heavy on his heart, and he observed the tears of his wife and those of Phedora with a stupid appearance of unconcern, which to an eye the least observing, had in it all the tincture of despair. In this gloomy calm he was put on shore, and the small remnant of his possessions placed about him : Phedora discerning that he was incapable of reflection, endeavoured to recall his scattered thoughts by enquiring with eager zeal what she should carry !—" Alas I know not," returned he : " poor girl ! I have now no roof to shelter thee ! thou art young and the peaceful grave is not ready for thee : but as for me and my unhappy wife, I trust we shall soon rejoin our departed boy."

" No no, I hope not !" exclaimed Phedora ; " what can I do to relieve you ? Speak to me dear Mrs Stenau ; shall we return to the habitation you quitted this morning, and then send to Mr. Leuhaupt for his advice ?"

M 2

" I

“ I think so,” said the poor woman with a deep sigh, scarcely knowing what was proposed to her, or what she answered.

“ But how must I convey those things thither ?” said Ulric looking round him ; “ if we lose them, we must starve, since this is all I possess in the world ; and when old age overtakes us.—”

“ I will carry them all,” interrupted Phedora, forgetting that she was no longer to be seen in Dorpt ; “ I will carry as much as I am able, and return for more until I have removed every thing. Be not uneasy—I will serve you, and Mr. Leuhaupt will advise.”

Ulric was sensible of her good intentions, but he much questioned her strength for the accomplishment of this plan : whilst he stood considering how he should act, a Livonian soldier passed, who paused on observing the situation of the little party. His countenance was honest and open, and Phedora besought Mr. Stenau to ask his assistance.—

The

The man overheard her, and unsolicited immediately offered his aid, which was joyfully accepted. They returned to their lodgings, and making known the disappointment they had met with, were again admitted: Ulric then thanked the foldier, and would have made him a small acknowledgment in money, but this he refused, and instantly departed with an air of satisfaction any pecuniary recompence would have destroyed, since it arose from the pleasure of having been serviceable to one of his distressed countrymen.

When Mrs. Stenau and Phedora had in some degree settled their little arrangements and begun to feel less forlorn, Ulric went out to seek and confer with Mr. Leuhaupt upon the restraint so unexpectedly laid upon him: he walked forward unmindful of what passed around him, and more than once from absence of mind, forgot the instructions he had received from the good man himself, where he might be found, should any mis-

M 3

fortune

fortune or discovery await their beloved Rubenski. As he wandered with a face of care and anxiety, he was accosted by an officer whom he did not immediately recollect, till the stranger called himself Rectzizi.

When mutual expressions of satisfaction passed at a meeting so little expected, Casimir enquired if he had lately heard of Mr. Leuhaupt and his family.

“ They are now at Dorpt,” replied Ulric, “ and I am in search of their dwelling, which I believe I am very near.”

The young man's countenance brightened at this intelligence, and his pace was involuntarily quickened : he told Mr. Stenau that he had arrived at the town only the preceding day from Novogorod, and having in vain endeavoured to discover if he was still at Dorpt, he feared that he had left it, and had almost given up the hope of seeing him when they had so fortunately encountered each other.

At

At length Ulric succeeded in finding the habitation of the good minister, after having almost exhausted the patience of Rectzizi, who entered it with a palpitating heart, and beheld Mr. Leuhaupt seated with folded arms and his eyes fixed upon the ground, whilst his bosom heaved now and then a deep and heavy sigh: his wife was on the opposite side of the narrow apartment, with her face concealed by her hands, and Catherine hung over her in great affliction. A momentary observation of this scene of mute anguish, banished the pleasing smile of expectation from the features of Rectzizi, and impressed them with consternation:—he looked round him with eyes of apprehensive enquiry which his voice refused to second, and it was not until the accents of Ulric Stenau struck them, that the forrowing family discerned the presence of either.

Catherine looked up with an exclamation of surprise, which the appearance of Cassimir considerable heightened, and the coun-

M 4

tenance

tenance of her father exhibited the same emotion. The young man advanced, and taking his hand, welcomed him to Dorpt with looks of commiseration and friendship; then saluting Mrs. Leuhaupt who was unable to speak, he enquired of Catherine for her companion.

“Is she not with Mr. Stenau?” demanded the good minister in the utmost terror.—Ulric replied that she was with his wife; and then related the reason of their being still at Dorpt.

“I am grieved at this,” returned Mr. Leuhaupt, “upon your account; and I am grieved too on that of Phedora; as Colonel Rimbach is now searching for her: he was here this morning, and knows of her evasion. I will not repeat to you my friend, the indignities this man has cast upon us, in the heat of disappointed passion, or the threats with which he has endeavoured to weaken our attachment to the cause of virtue. I have the satisfaction to be convinced that

that we are not to be corrupted ; yet I wish the poor girl were far from this place."

" I was not mistaken then," said Rectzizi eagerly ; " was it not Phedora I saw last night ?—Did you not accompany her ?"

" I did conduct her last evening to our friends : but is it possible that my dear Casimir was the cause of the uneasiness which tormented us, lest our silent attendant should be an emissary of Colonel Rimbach ?"

" I followed you," said Rectzizi, " sometimes doubting and sometimes almost assured that it was you ; but the little hope I had of your being at Dorpt, and the eagerness with which you avoided me, made me fearful of intruding unwelcome enquiries upon strangers who evidently fled my observation ; and when you failed to recognize my voice, as I purposely approached you before I answered the centinel, I retired disappointed and vexed at my supposed mistake. And now tell me, my dear Sir, how can I serve you ? Upon what pretence does Co-

M 5

lonel.

lonel Rimbach molest you, or dare to pursue Phedora Rubenski, your lovely charge?"

"Be calm my young friend, or I shall be apprehensive of confiding our misfortunes to your generous bosom."

"I will be calm," cried Reetzizi; "but if I find," added he raising his voice, "that Rimbach has presumed to——"

"He presumes to be vicious," interrupted Mr. Leuhaupt, "and we will dare to be otherwise: but it is not the province of the virtuous man, my good Cassimir, to seek to punish, with reciprocal outrage the injuries he receives: lay aside that threatening mien, and let me be obliged to your intentions, without lamenting the mistaken warmth which could only aggravate the outrages I have endured, by ultimately making my friend a sufferer with myself. Let us at present consult with each other upon some method of relieving Mr. Stenau from the restraint which prevents his voyage to Pleskow. Do you think a petition to the Governor would avail?"

"I

“ I will at least try its efficacy,” returned Rectzizi, “ by presenting it myself, and enforcing it with every persuasive argument my friendship for him can suggest. Ah my dear Sir !” continue he, “ correct me when you think me wrong ; but suffer me also to employ every method you can approve, to relieve you from threats and ill-usage which I cannot bear to think of.”

“ I thank you,” said Mr. Leuhaupt, “ let that be a secondary consideration.”

The petition was then drawn up, and Casimir immediately departed with it, to endeavour to obtain an audience of the Governor, of whom he had some knowledge. — Mrs. Leuhaupt then found time to enquire after their young friend and Mrs. Stenau, whom they longed to see ; but Mr. Leuhaupt represented so forcibly the danger Phedora would hazard of being discovered by Rimbach, if there were to be any communication between them, that however reluctantly, they gave up their wishes.—“ I

have no doubt," said the good man, " but that all our motions are watched ; and even this visit of our friend Ulric, though unavoidable, may lead to mischief : yet we will hope for the best."

Rectzizi was absent about three hours, and when he returned his countenance too plainly indicated that he had been repulsed. Mr. Stenau gazed upon him with earnest enquiry, but he appeared not in haste to render an account of his mission. At length the good minister broke silence. " Your kind efforts," said he, " have not been successful : we are grieved at your failure, but not more so I am sure than you are."

" Ah Sir !" exclaimed Rectzizi, " I have heard that which pains and shocks me beyond measure. Too well did you foretell the fate of our unhappy countrymen ; but that you and your family should be so suddenly involved in the ruin, is hard indeed."

" What have you heard Rectzizi ?" demanded Mr. Leuhaupt.

" I

“ I have seen the Governor,” replied the young man : “ he positively refused my request, and the reason he gave for his inflexibility equally regards every Livonian in Dorpt. Alas ! my dear Sir, in five days it is decreed by the Russian government that you all depart for Casan * : the general notice to be given of this, will be much shorter. And I have to accelerate this unjustifiable edict, spilt my own blood, and raised my sword against the less cruel Swede !”

“ Hush, hush !”—cried Mr. Leuhaupt : “ did you not embark voluntarily in the cause you now condemn ? If you have found reason to alter your opinion, let not your voice proclaim it, until you can with honour lay down the arms which have been put into your hands.”

“ You are right, my revered monitor,” returned Rectzizi, “ I will be silent till then : and whatever I may suffer from the restraint,

* The inhabitants of Dorpt in general, with the rest of the Livonians, were banished to Casan and Astracan, by Peter the First.

your

your reproof has called to my mind that were I to act otherwise, I should wound the strict honour I am solicitous to preserve from blemish. It is true I foresaw not the horror of this cruel moment ; but I ought to have weighed more maturely every probable consequence of those victories I was so eager to share in. But enough of this—I have not yet seen my friend Ivan ; is he with Phedora—is he with Mrs. Stenau ?”

Every one was silent but Mr. Leuhaupt, who after a pause of a moment said, “ My son can no longer complain that I check his military ardour : He entered the service in Colonel Rimbach’s regiment.”

“ Indeed ! but why not, if such was his continued intention, why not give me a chance of being serviceable to him, by engaging in the corps to which I belong ? He is then at Dorpt since his regiment is here.”

Mr. Leuhaupt evaded the first part of the question, and to the last he replied, that he
believed

believed Ivan had been drafted into another regiment about the time of their removing from their own village—a circumstance he had gathered from the Colonel by repeated enquiry. Rectzizi observed his reserve upon the subject, and imputed it to the fear of encreasing the visible uneasiness of Mrs. Leuhaupt, which induced him to drop the discussion with precipitation.

It was judged most proper that Ulric should not return home before the evening closed in, to escape the vigilance of Rimbach : Rectzizi was therefore employed to inform Mrs. Stenau and Phedora of the necessity of his lengthened absence ; and as another visit from the Colonel was not improbable, Mr. Leuhaupt was compelled to place his guest where he could not be seen by the expected intruder, and hurry away Cassimir, who was equally impatient to receive instructions where the fair Rubenski was to be found, and who was not long in
travelling

traversing the space Ulric had so leisurely measured in the morning.

When Phedora heard the signal at the door, she flew to open it, in expectation of Mr. Stenau's return, for which his wife felt very anxious, and started on beholding the unlooked for form of Reetzizi, who exhibited almost equal surprize; for though her figure was not unfought for, it was so much improved since he had seen her last, that he stood motionless with wonder and admiration. She felt abashed at his earnest gaze, and her confusion recovered him to recollection: he then proclaimed his satisfaction at thus again meeting her, in which her smiles informed him that she participated, and as she led him to Mrs. Stenau, her countenance expressed an animation it had not displayed for some time past.

Reetzizi related his fortunate rencontre with Ulric, his consequent discovery of the dwelling of their mutual friends the Leuhaupts,

haupts, and the motive that operated to detain Mr. Stenau with them until the evening had closed in : his wife submitted to the necessity that separated him from her, and and invited Rectzizi to partake of the repast she had prepared for her husband against his return. Cassimir hesitated a moment, but found himself unequal to the task of declining a request so consonant to his wishes, and his acquiescence gratified them both.— He could not prevail with himself, during the two hours he stayed, to blight the hopes the good woman entertained of the possibility of still going to Pleskow ; yet as he surveyed with sensible delight the figure of Phedora, and beheld in every action the gentle goodness of her heart, he could not forbear secretly deprecating the destiny that appeared to await her. “ And must that lovely countenance,” thought he, “ in which every engaging quality is depicted, be clouded with anxious sorrow, and fade prematurely in a hateful and rigorous banishment to the wild spot it is so cruelly doomed henceforth

forth to adorn ! Must that sweet bloom be nipped by poverty and want, whilst thousands less contented amidst affluence and prosperity, are surrounded with the delights her soft humility so much better merits !"—A sigh followed this mental ejaculation, and the look that accompanied it again discomposed Phedora, who new to the emotion that agitated her bosom, felt earnest and anxious to discover its source :—when Mr. or Mrs. Leuhaupt regarded her with solicitous kindness, she had experienced only gratitude and pleasure ; it was the same with respect to her other friends : “ How happens it then,” thought she, “ that the compassionate glances of the amiable Rectzizi, when he appears to pity and wish me well, should make me tremble with such strange inquietude ?” The unaccountable promise Ivan had extorted from her at parting, now suddenly rushed into her mind, and dyed her cheeks with blushes : the meeting she had fancied so improbable, had indeed come to pass ; but for the rest, she could not imagine

gine why he had thought of a circumstance so little to be supposed or expected.

Towards sunset, Rectzizi departed : when he rose to go, the motion seemed to be impelled by some recollection that in the instant assailed his memory : and his precipitancy was such, that Mrs. Stenau had scarcely time to entreat him to return on the following morning, and strengthen with his counsel the advice of Mr. Leuhaupt upon the difficulty which occurred. He readily promised all she asked, and then flew away.

At night when Ulric returned, he enquired if Cassimir were still at his house, and appeared embarrassed when he received an answer in the negative ; for Mr. Leuhaupt had awaited him the whole evening, and was much disappointed at his failing to be with him as it seems he had promised. But the surprize each one expressed at a neglect so unusual in Rectzizi, soon gave place to mutual lamentation when Ulric disclosed the
unpleasing

unpleasing intelligence of their approaching banishment to Casan. Mrs. Stenau was much shocked at it, and Phedora joined her tears to those she shed, not upon her own account, for to her every country was the same in the society of her friends and protectors; but for the misery which inevitably threatened them, deprived as they were of fortune, and torn far from every connexion to whom they could look for assistance and support.

The whole night was spent without rest; and when Rectzizi appeared, who was more faithful to his morning appointment than to the one of the preceding evening, he was alarmed at the despondency their looks betrayed. He entreated Mrs. Stenau to be comforted and to hope the best. "I did not mean," said he, "to mention the plan that so hastily snatched me from you yesterday, till I was more assured of its success; but if it will relieve your mind from a small part of its affliction, to think that I have hopes of accom-

accompanying you, I can no longer conceal it from your knowledge."

He then related to them that he had entreated the Governor to give him a command in the troops appointed to convey the unhappy Livonians to their exile, who had told him that the officers of the escort were already named ; but that he gave him permission to exchange if he could, with any officer of equal rank who might be less willing to go. " I then employed the whole evening," continued Rectzizi, " in a negotiation which I flatter myself will succeed : if it should, I shall have the happiness of softening the rigour of your destiny, and procuring you many comforts which I shudder to think you might otherwise want."

Ulric and his wife endeavoured to express the thankfulness they felt ; and Phedora exclaimed with delight, " Oh how happy will this make Mr. and Mrs. Leuhaupt ! hasten, hasten Captain Rectzizi, and give them this

new

new instance of your goodness. O that I could fly and tell them myself!"

"You must not go near them," said Ulric, "for Colonel Rimbach was there yesterday——" He interrupted himself, and looked at Rectzizi as if his presence prevented him saying more.

"Ah what indignities has their goodness to me drawn upon them!" cried Phedora with a changed countenance; "did you not tell me he had threatened them with punishment?"

"How!—is it indeed so?" demanded Rectzizi.

Ulric looked distressed, and at length said that Mr. Leuhaupt had charged him not to mention the circumstance.

"I comprehend the meaning of the prohibition towards me,"—returned Cassimir, "and will endeavour to check the indignation such unworthy conduct inspires, that I may the better counteract its malignity.—Dry up those tears," added he, turning to
Phedora

Phedora with a look of softness, "all will yet be well. I will now go to our good friends, and account for my absence yesterday evening: shall I take any message to them from you?"

"Tell them," replied she, "how much I grieve——"

"No no," interrupted Rectzizi with a smile, "I should prefer telling them that you are determined to grieve no longer; for I am sure they would be more pleased to hear it."

"Ah Sir! If I could see them happy, I could experience only joy, whatever became of me; but when all my friends are in affliction, how can I even try to shake off the sadness that will cling round my heart."

"Sweet girl!" softly ejaculated Rectzizi as he left the house, "what a lovely disposition is hers!"

The rest of the day passed without any intelligence from the Leuhaupts, or any further communication of the proceedings of Rectzizi;

Rectzizi; and Mr. Stenau and his wife felt the utmost anxiety for the success of his generous effort to accompany them to Casan: Phedora too, experienced an equal interest in the event of his application for an exchange.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

- " 'Tis the cruel artifice of fate,
" Thus to refine and vary on our woes,
" To raise us from despair, and give us hopes,
" Only to plunge us in the gulph again,
" And make us double wretched."

THE following morning made known all over the town, the forced emigration of its Livonian inhabitants, and involved them in universal distress and confusion. They were to be transported across the lake Peipus to the dutchy of Pleskow, and then pursue the remainder of the long journey in covered waggons prepared to receive them at their landing. The magistrates and Russian officers called upon them to bring forth their effects, that they might immediately be stowed on board the sloops; but they were however, to be limited in weight and circumference.

rence. This cruel restriction completed the misery of this unhappy people, by giving them a forecast of the horrors of poverty and abject want, in a wild, desolate and foreign province. Ulric Stenau, no longer able to attend to the injunctions of Mr. Leuhaupt to abstain from any communication with him, lest the retreat of Phedora should be discovered, hastened with a thoughtless step to bewail with him this unexpected blow, and as usual to ask his advice how to evade it.

He found the family more tranquil than he had expected to see them; for he forgot that their little property was too circumscribed to be much diminished by the decree that impoverished him. After having recapitulated with tedious minuteness his various losses, for which Mr. Leuhaupt could only repeat the regret he had often before expressed: "And now at length," added Ulric, "when I thought myself secure of preserving the little remnant of my possessions, to
soften

soften the rigour of my miserable destiny, I am forced to leave the better half amidst strangers, whilst I shall feel the want of it in the helpless old age which is not far off."

Mr. Leuhaupt advised him to endeavour to dispose of what was least portable, before he was compelled to embark, and to take in balance only the coin of Russia. Ulric shook his head, but said he would instantly return home and try what he could do:—before he had quitted the house however, he had recollection enough to enquire if they had seen Rectzizi, and where he was to be found; for he reflected that his assistance might be of infinite service at this juncture. Mt. Leuhaupt said he had not seen him that day, and he supposed the exchange he was labouring to effect, entirely occupied him, and prevented the generous attention he was ever so ready to bestow upon his friends.—“ I know not where he is to be found,” added the good man, “ but if he calls here I will send him to you.”

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Ulric then hastened home, where he had the mortification to learn Rectzizi had been in his absence :—he asked, but with little hope of satisfaction, if his wife or Phedora had thought of consulting him upon the restriction of their baggage. Phedora with a deep blush immediately confessed that it had not occurred to her, and Mrs. Stenau avowed the same omission:—" I was so overjoyed," said the poor woman, " to hear that he was now assured of being able to accompany us, that I forgot every thing else."

" How !" cried Ulric ; " is he quite sure of this ?"

" Yes," replied Phedora with more than usual timidity, but with eyes that betrayed the pleasure she felt, " he flew to tell us—to tell you, that he had succeeded beyond his hopes, and that half his uneasiness for our welfare had now vanished, since he was permitted to watch over it himself."

" Then surely," exclaimed Ulric with a sudden and selfish recollection, " he might convey

convey on board as his own, all that I am not suffered to take with me?"

Mrs. Stenau agreed in the supposition, and her husband then impatiently demanded when Rectzizi had proposed calling again.—“He did not say,” cried Phedora; “I wish I had asked him.”

Ulric now betrayed the most fretful anxiety to impart to the young foldier his newly conceived expedient, for the success of which he felt more interest than he had originally shown, even for the preservation of the whole of his large possessions; till recollecting the promise Mr. Leuhaupt had made when he left him, he instantly began employing himself very busily, in dividing his packages into two shares, intimating all the while that if he was disappointed in his hopes of Rectzizi, his wife and himself must perish with want before they had been banished a year. “Poor Leuhaupt,” added he, “what is to become of his family I cannot tell!”

Phedora felt during this speech an accumulation of anguish that overpowered her; compelled to cling for subsistence to those generous beings who could so ill support any additional incumbrance, but whose liberal hearts expanded to her desolate misery, the apostrophe of Mr. Stenau awakened her conscious mind to a keener sense of it, and she burst into a violent flood of tears, which startled him and moved his wife to compassion and kindness.

Whilst Mrs. Stenau was endeavouring to soothe her sorrow, which rather encreased than abated, Rectzizi suddenly appeared before them: he gazed at Phedora with evident emotion, and tenderly enquired the cause of a grief he had not any symptom of two hours before. Mrs. Stenau though unable to define it properly, said enough to inform him of the species of distress by which her young companion was assailed: he took her hand, and entreated her to consider him as her friend, permit him to share in her afflictions

afflictions, and endeavour at least to alleviate them.—“ I would to heaven,” he added hesitatingly, “ that my family were nearer—my mother I am sure would rejoice :—suffer me however, dear Phedora, as I know how she would act, to offer in her name, a trifle indeed, but what I hope will remove from your mind the generous apprehension that now torments it. I will give Mr. Leuhaupt the same sum every month for your use, and when he meets my mother again, she will not be denied the satisfaction of making up the deficiency to him.” He then put some money into her hand, but she gently rejected it, and her sobs increased.

“ Do not mortify me,” resumed Rectizi, “ by this unkind reluctance : consider me only as the agent of my family, whom you will one day I hope be personally known to, and then you will be sensible of the injury you do them, by supposing that they would not readily, and with avidity, adopt this action as their own.”

Mrs. Stenau perceived the encreasing unwillingness of Phedora to comply with the young man's request, and proposed submitting the question to the judgment of Mr. Leuhaupt, their mutual friend. Phedora readily assented, and Rectzizi at length agreed to it, but with more reluctance.

Ulric who had waited the termination of the contest with some impatience, now made known to Rectzizi the request he had meditated ; and finding it granted without the least hesitation, could then find time to console the anxious Phedora, to whose feelings he had given so rude a disturbance.—When she was more composed, he turned again to Cassimir, to consult about the mode of removing the packages he had set apart for this purpose, and it was settled that Rectzizi should immediately send for them.—The young man then left the house, pleased to find himself in any way useful to the friends of Phedora.

The

The next day but one, was appointed for the Livonians to leave Dorpt, and Mr. Leuhaupt allowed himself to hope that Rimbach had given up his pursuit, as he had not seen or heard from him for the last eight and forty hours : his wife was far from feeling any encreased security on this head ; she rather imagined the absence of the Colonel denoted some latent treachery ; yet she was willing to think the best, and trusted that Phedora would soon be far from his licentious schemes.

Reetzizi failed not to endeavour upon the first opportunity, to gain Mr. Lenhaupt's compliance with his intended benevolence to the lovely orphan. The good man appeared very much distressed when his consent was called for, and after some consideration which only encreased his perplexity, replied that he knew not how to determine : " yet you, my dear Cassimir," said he, " are the only young man with whom I could hesitate a moment upon such a subject. I know the excellence of your heart, and that the mo-

tives which govern your actions cannot be dishonourable ; but I know too, that you do not at present receive any pecuniary aid from your family, and that what you propose to spare from your appointment, must greatly incommode you to part with."

Rectzizi would now have spoken, but Mr. Leuhaupt continued.—"I consider this poor girl as my daughter ; my wife loves her with tenderness, and Catherine regards her as a sister : we are indigent it is true ; yet whilst Phedora will share our fortunes, broken as they are, our arms will be open to her : and until we are unable to afford a roof to shelter her, and the means however humble to support existence, I could wish her to decline your benevolent assistance. I have no right however to dictate to her, nor will my conscience permit me to enforce my opinion, whilst I am sensible that a little time hence, I may not have the power of offering her a bit of bread."

Rectzizi

Rectzizi sighed whilst he embraced him with love and veneration. "Phedora herself then is to determine," said he; "you will not oppose my wish—I may tell her so."

"I think," replied Mr. Leuhaupt, still more embarrassed, "that young and unconscious as she is, I may trust to the native delicacy of her mind; I think she would shrink from the idea of owing an obligation such as this, to any man whose years and situation would not absolve her from unpleasant imputations."

"It is not to myself," cried Cassimir, interrupting him, "that she will owe this mighty obligation, it is in my mother's name I now act. I will go then immediately, and try to prevail with her to think thus."

He found however, that Phedora justified the opinion of her revered friend; since neither the rhetoric, entreaty or persuasion of Rectzizi could induce her to accept his well-meant offering; "unless," she said, "Mr. and Mrs. Leuhaupt had commanded her to

do so."—He was much disappointed ; but determined to appropriate and employ the money for the benefit of her beloved friends.

At length the morning of embarkation arrived, and Mr. Leuhaupt by the medium of Rectzizi, informed the Stenaus that it would be more prudent to defer their meeting, until each party attained the vessel which the young soldier had taken care should conduct them all, and in which he had himself secured a passage. Ulric who had already been on board to stow all his effects, led his wife and Phedora to the water side, a little way out of the town, where the busy scene rather diverted their attention from the melancholy ideas, which intruded nevertheless upon their minds, on being thus compelled to quit their native country for one, savage, dreary, desolate and wild. Rectzizi had intended to escort them to the transport, but the impatience of Ulric to get on board in order to take care of his property, had induced him to hurry from his lodgings long before

before it was necessary, and to the great mortification of Phedora, before the duty of their friend Cassimir would permit him to fly to them.

As she gazed around her, and at the numerous boats passing to and from the vessels, she perceived in one of them the Leuhaupt and Rectzizi who had just pushed from the shore. "He has been to our dwelling," thought Phedora, "and not found us there—how restless is Mr. Stenau!—but I am rejoiced that the good Rectzizi attends those dear friends."—Her eyes followed them till their boat was suddenly stopt by another that was passing the contrary way: a figure in a military habit stood in it, which by the height and air gave her an apprehension of its being Colonel Rimbach, and a dreadful presage now struck upon her heart: she turned hastily to impart her suspicions to Mrs. Stenau, when she beheld the hated countenance of Michaelhoff, who was standing close behind her.

Ulric

Ulric perceived the deadly paleness of her cheeks, and however occupied his mind was, he could not forbear enquiring into the cause of it, whilst the wretch who occasioned the emotion, appeared to enjoy the dread and anguish he inspired. Phedora saw him speak in a whisper to a person who was near him, and then hurry away: she could not doubt but that his intention was to inform Rimbach of the discovery he had made, in low and broken accents made known her apprehensions to Mr. Stenau;—but her terror, and the looks of Michaelhoff's companion, which were fixed upon her, rendered her words so inarticulate and her meaning so confused and unintelligible, that Ulric with some impatience desired her to raise her voice; but at that moment an empty boat caught his attention, and he averred that he must not lose time in securing it, or they might probably wait two hours longer. He then ran forward, and Phedora with increasing agony seized the hand of Mrs. Stenau, and repeated her incoherent tale:—
she

she had just made herself understood, when she perceived Rimbach approaching with hasty steps, casting round him looks of impatient enquiry. The man whom Michaelhoff had left to watch her, walked towards him to end his suspense, and Phedora no longer able to reflect upon the impulse that governed her, darted away with the swiftness of a rein deer.

As she ran, she thought she heard the voice of Rectzizi in loud contention; but the more furious accents of Rimbach again urged her flight, which she continued as long as her strength and respiration lasted. The numerous groups of Livonians that had crowded the water side were then no longer in view, and the topsails of the transports were alone visible, and marked the spot from which she fled: but a few paces from her, she beheld three or four sailors who regarded her attentively; and she immediately conceived hopes of influencing them to take her to the transport, on board of which she was to have embroidered;

embarked; for she had heard, and fortunately recollected the name of it. Whilst this design was combatted by native timidity and an apprehension of new danger, a party of military advanced, and she then hastened to the sailors for protection, entreating them in a tone of distress to put her into the boat from which they had just landed; they appeared to understand her petition which was assisted by supplicating signs, and hurried her away to execute it.

They had scarcely put from shore, when the pursuers arrived at it, and hallowed to them to turn back, but, not finding their wish immediately complied with, they had recourse to menaces the least likely to enforce obedience. The mariners who regarded them with infinite contempt, heard their threats with indignation, and even braved their levelled muskets, which the soldiers had presented to intimidate them. Phedora who now believed her capture or death inevitable, sunk to the bottom of the boat in a
state

state of insensibility, and her rude protectors were too much occupied in answering their opponents by gestures of disdain, (when their voices could no longer be heard) to attend to her situation.

When animation returned, she found herself on board a vessel of a size and construction she had never before seen, and much startled by the strange figures about her, eagerly called upon Mr. Leuhaupt and Rectizi. A person who appeared to be the captain of the ship, tried to soothe her with assurances of safety, and Phedora discovering that he was a Russian, was seized with a dread of the most rigorous and terrible slavery: she threw herself on her knees before him, and conjured him with earnest supplication to send her on board the sloop Catherine, out of which she had not a friend, she said, in the world.

The commander made no immediate reply, but led her to a cabin where he desired her to compose herself: she there renewed

newed her request in a manner so energetic, that he promised to comply with it on the following morning, and quitted her so abruptly, that she had not time to remonstrate or supplicate further. She would have left the retreat in which he had thought proper to place her, to have urged the necessity of her immediate departure; but her head grew giddy as she endeavoured to follow the captain, and the motion of the vessel, gentle and almost imperceptible as it was, disordered her whole frame, and she fell to the ground in an agony of fear, horror, and anxiety.

Her cries were not heard amidst the noise caused by the execution of some orders given by the commander when he quitted her, and the encreasing movement of the vessel reduced her for a while to a state in which she could think of nothing beyond the present wretchedness she experienced. At length however, the terror of being wholly in the power of strangers and Russians, superceded
extreme

extreme sickness and fatigue, and she crawled with difficulty to the window of the cabin in the hope of beholding some of the transport floops : but she found by the expanse of water that surrounded her on every side, and excluded all view of the shore, that she must be at a considerable distance from it, and to her infinite uneasiness no other vessel was discernable. She was incapable of reaching the door of the cabin, and too much exhausted to repeat her cries ; and was therefore compelled to remain an unresisting victim to the severest indisposition and the most poignant anxiety. The hours passed almost unheeded, though their course was heavy, and darkness overspread the horizon, before the poor prisoner was visited by any of the crew : a boy then entered the cabin by accident, for he knew not of her being there.

The captain had in reality forgotten to give any orders about her ; but like an honest and true Rus as he professed to be, in spite
of

of innovations, he had retired to his home-brewed spirits,* and quaffed away every recollection, but that of still repeating the potation he loved so well.

Phedora enquired eagerly of the lad, if the vessel were following the sloops appointed for the emigration of the Livonians, and received for answer that the transports had failed in the morning for the lake Worsero. "Is this the lake Worsero?" asked Phedora in faltering accents.

"No; we are cruising in the lake Piepus."

No words can paint her despair at this information: she vehemently insisted upon seeing the commander, in the frantic hope of inducing him to alter his course at her entreaty, that she might be restored to her friends. But the boy well knew that his captain was not in a state to comprehend her

* Distilled from Rye, of which the Russians in the last century drank excessively.

request,

request, nor would he be intruded upon during his accustomed relaxation from the fatigues of the day; he therefore withdrew in silence to escape her importunities and distress, and as Phedora imagined he was gone to execute her commission, she waited the effect of it with a calmer mind.

The time seemed long indeed—she expected every moment the return of the boy, or the appearance of the captain; but neither of them came, and she passed the night in all that excruciating anxiety, which is an alternate mixture of feeble hope and encroaching despair. When the first sun-beam entered her cabin, she resolved to end her suspense by reascending to the deck, and there awaiting the presence of the commander:—with some difficulty she made her way to it, and the freshness of the morning air that swept over the ruffled bosom of the lake, revived her fainting spirits. The sailors gazed at her beauty with admiration, and at her evident distress with compassion: but she heeded

heeded not the impression she made on her rough companions, and was intent only on observing a distant sail, which filled her mind with confused ideas of deliverance. She thought that Rectzizi might probably have come in search of her, forgetting the little probability there was that he should know any thing of her destiny, and that it was impossible for him to quit his post, even if by any extraordinary accident he should have become acquainted with it. But this delightful hope soon vanished before less pleasing images, and reflection gave to her mind the abhorred Colonel Rimbach pursuing her in vengeance, and raging at her insolent flight. She turned pale with this idea and withdrew her eyes from the object which had excited it, to look around her for protection or concealment if it should be realized : for the first time she then met the earnest gaze of the sailors, and shrunk from it ; but as she again caught a sight of the other vessel, her first fears overcame her timidity, and she eagerly enquired if they
thought

thought it to be a shallop from Dorpt, or one of the transport sloops.—“ Neither,” answered the man at the helm; “ it is one of our half-gallies.”

Phedora was both pleased and disappointed at this intelligence : pleased that it was not likely to contain Rimbach, and disappointed that it could not be Restzizi and her friends.

An officer belonging to the vessel now appeared upon deck, and having given orders to slacken sail that the half galley might come up with them, he turned to Phedora and enquired with a smile how she liked her new habitation, and why she had left her cabin so early ?—She replied with a deep blush, that she wished to speak with the captain. “ But perhaps,” added she, “ *you* will give directions that I may be put on shore, if you cannot overtake the sloop Catherine.”

“ On

“ On shore !” exclaimed the officer who was a lieutenant : “ are you then so soon tired of us ?”

There was something in his mode of uttering this speech, that infinitely shocked Phedora who recollecting the manner in which she had been brought on board, again felt her cheeks suffused with a yet warmer glow of shame, and entreated with an earnestness almost incoherent, that her petition might be carried to the captain. The lieutenant was moved at her distress, and to atone for having caused it, said he would venture to disturb the repose of his commander, and make him comprehend what she wished him to do.

Phedora appeared rather comforted with this assurance, and waited his return with apprehensive impatience :—he was absent much longer than she imagined necessary to fulfil his mission, and the other vessel had now gained considerably upon them. She
thought

thought she could perceive the Russian military uniform on some of the people upon deck, and her bosom heaved with contrary emotions—it might be Rectzizi, or it might be Rimbach—her fears however were most prevalent, and she retired to her cabin that she might not be seen. There, she looked through the little window, but the vessel did not approach from that side, and she was compelled to remain in ignorance of what she most wished to know. She listened attentively, and in a short time heard a dashing of oars as if a boat were very near, and soon distinguished voices on deck hailing the expected visitors. Her heart fluttered at the sound; she waited with still greater eagerness the replies which she fully expected would either overwhelm her with joy, or confirm her apprehensions: but to her extreme disappointment she could not make out a single sentence of the loud conversations which were passing above. Her impatience however to learn who had boarded the ship from the boat, was not the only

inconvenience she had to combat ; for in proportion as the indisposition, which the motion of the vessel occasioned, had left her, she was assailed by a strong inclination to break a fast that had lasted four and twenty hours.

After a tedious interval the lieutenant at length entered the cabin ; and with an expression of good humoured concern, told her that he had not been able to obtain the attention of his captain to the request he had carried from her ; but that he would urge it again, if she yet wished him to do so, the first opportunity. “ Oh certainly—most certainly I do,” she replied ; “ but I fear we are all this time removing wider and wider from the dear objects of my solicitude. If the captain refuses to listen to my petition, I shall never see them more !”

This apprehension drew a shower of tears from her eyes, which compleatly mollified the heart of the lieutenant, who with many offers of service, and promises of mediation

offers

in her behalf, endeavoured to console her.—Phedora heard his professions with something like hope, and relying upon his sincerity, ventured to question him concerning the visitors from the other vessel. He replied that they were some of the officers belonging to it, and those of a regiment on board.—

“What are their names—are they from Dorpt?” asked Phedora in a tremor.

“They are not:—but tell me, do you wish or fear to see any one from thence?”

“Oh, both!” returned she unguardedly.

He would have questioned her further; but his importunity restored her to her usual prudence: when he found that he only succeeded in distressing her, he desisted; and enquiring if she had breakfasted, on receiving a negative, withdrew to procure her some.

The moment he had left her, Phedora recollected that she ought to have conjured him not to mention her to any person from

the other vessel: for though he had told her they were not from Dorpt, she fancied that he might be mistaken, and her imagination was busy in tormenting her, till a boy appeared with the repast the lieutenant had sent. From him she learnt that the strangers had returned to their galley, and that they had sailed immediately from Pleskow.—Relieved therefore on this point, all the attention of Phedora was now directed to obtain her petition of the captain: should he refuse to follow the transports and deliver her to her friends, “Alas!” thought she, “what will become of me! where shall I direct my steps—to whom shall I turn for protection!”

The consternation of those beloved beings the Leuhaupts, their perpetual anxiety for her fate, and the voice of Rectzizi demanding her with desperate threats, which her ear had caught as she fled, by turns assailed and tortured her with anguish and regret.—She condemned the rashness and precipitation

tion of her conduct, which had thrown her into a situation so wretched, and unable any longer to endure the agony of suspense in a point upon which her whole future happiness seemed to turn, she again and with added resolution, determined to seek the captain, and not give up the pursuit until her request was either rejected or granted.

For this purpose she left her cabin, and wandering about she knew not where, came at last to something like an apartment, tho' only formed into one by some canvass which separated it from the place where she stood : upon hearing voices within it, she was hastily withdrawing, but a sense of her helpless and neglected condition, and the dread of being divided for ever from her only friends, inspired her with courage and she put the canvass aside.

The accents she had distinguished, she now found to proceed from the lieutenant and an officer in the uniform she had descried

on the deck of the other vessel; his back was towards her, but the first glance informed her that it was not Rectzizi, and a horrible apprehension crossed her heart:—she had however no time to retreat, for the lieutenant looking up exclaimed “Here she is!”—Phedora was scarcely able to support herself, and a mist overspread her sight when the stranger turned eagerly round and called out, “By heaven it is Phedora Rubenski!” It now appeared certain that the lieutenant had meant to betray her; and sick with terror and anguish, she covered her face with her hands, and sunk upon the floor.

The person who had recognized her, instantly raised her up, and said something which she had not power to listen to, until the name of Leuhaupt struck her ear.—“Where are they?” she wildly asked, “Oh take me to them—in pity, in mercy take me to them!”

“I would it were in my power,” said the stranger fervently: “by what accident are
you

you separated from them—where did you leave them?”

Phedora now ventured to look up, and her fears were immediately dissipated by satisfaction and pleasure, when her eyes met the countenance of Lumeriski, whose voice her agitation had prevented her from recollecting.—“ Ah Lumeriski !” she exclaimed, “ dear, good Lumeriski, is it you who have so much terrified me ? I thought it had been Colonel Rimbach or Michaelhoff.”

The lieutenant of the vessel now perceiving them to be mutually interested in this unexpected meeting, proposed that they should adjourn to the cabin Phedora occupied, where the explanation required would be less liable to be overheard and interrupted. Lumeriski consented, but Phedora becoming each moment more anxious and uneasy to join the Leuhaupts, first made known her wish to the young foldier, and informed him that they were amongst the Livonians ban-

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nished from Dorpt.—He appeared much hurt at this intelligence; and after some conversation with his friend, he was compelled to tell the unhappy Phedora, that the emigrants must ere that time be landed, and far on their journey towards Smolensko; and even if any circumstance had arisen to retard them, the captain could not quit the station in which he was ordered to cruise, to follow the transports, as she had hoped he would.

This dreadful news banished the vermilion from her cheeks, and almost drove her to despair: she suffered the lieutenant to conduct her in silence to her retreat, and Lumeriski followed in a state of mind almost equally unhappy and forlorn. When they were seated, he requested Phedora to give him a narrative of the circumstances which had thrown her from the protection of her friends, that he might be the better qualified to assist her. She instantly gave it with all the precision her confusion would admit of,

of, and Lumerski learnt with deep regret, that his solicitude in recommending the family of the good minister to the attention of Colonel Rimbach, had heightened, if it had not been the sole cause of their distress.—Phedora could not illustrate his designs as Mr. Leuhaupt might have done, but the hints she unavoidably dropt sufficiently convinced Lumerski of the nature of them, and he cursed the treacherous villain with a vehemence that startled her.

“Romano,” cried he to the lieutenant, whom he had detained in the cabin, “assist me with your counsel: how can we restore Phedora to these worthy people; and tell me too, how to devise some method of succouring a family so good, so amiable!—What must be their situation, destitute as I know they are and must be of every comfort!”

“Captain Rectzizi is with them,” interrupted Phedora in a timid voice.

“Indeed! how did that happen?”

“We

“ We met him at Dorpt,” replied she.

“ Was he appointed then,” asked Lumeriski, “ to escort the exiled Livonians ?”

“ He procured an exchange with another officer, said Phedora, “ that he might console the good Leuhaupts in their misfortunes, and lessen them by his cares : he assisted Ulric Stenau and his wife, my other friends, to convey their effects in safety, and they lost half their fears when they found he was to accompany them.”

“ Ah my poor Cassimir,” exclaimed Lumeriski, “ what a disappointment was thine ! but I know thy generous nature : thou wilt still continue thy good offices, though thou hast lost thy recompence.”

Phedora blushed at this apostrophe ; but her emotion was lost upon Lumeriski, who immediately began consulting with the lieutenant upon the possibility of conveying her to some town in Smolensko, through which the Livonians must pass : but this expedient however desirable, was not to be put
in

in practice, as they were not sufficiently near the eastern shore to send her in an open boat, neither could Lumeriski or Romano quit their posts to conduct her thither.

They were sensible in the interim, that her situation was extremely improper if not dangerous, as the captain had answered the second application of his lieutenant with an impatience so visible, that it had given him strong suspicions of the rectitude of his intentions ; and he was imparting them to his friend, with the circumstances attending the introduction of Phedora into the vessel, when her entrance discovered her to him : It was therefore agreed that she should pass for the sister of Lumeriski, and that he should claim her when he returned to the half galley, where he would be better able to protect her, until an opportunity offered of conveying her to Pleskow, and placing her in the protection of a family in that dutchy with whom he had some connection.

Phedora

Phedora acknowledged the obligation his generous cares conferred upon her ; but her disappointment in not being able to rejoin her beloved friends, and a sense of her desolate state, excited her tears, and all her efforts could not check them. Lumerski thought every moment an age till he had withdrawn her from the power of the captain, whose designs appeared so invidious : but the boat in which he had reached the frigate, had already carried back his companions, because having unexpectedly met with the lieutenant who had long been his friend, Lumerski had designed to spend the day with him ; and Romanow's captain with most of the officers, had taken the frigate's boats to return the visit. He was therefore compelled to wait the hour he had appointed to regain his galley, though the delay must subject his designs to the litigation of the captain, who would by that time have returned to his own vessel, and be in a situation, Romano hinted, to dispute the most reasonable claims. The lieutenant was however

ever determined to support those of his friend at any hazard, and the known warmth of his temper, when engaged in any contest, gave Lumerski additional uneasiness.

He endeavoured to while away the intervening time in conversation with Phedora, whom he engaged to talk of her regretted companion Catherine Leuhaupt; a theme which would have been doubly pleasing, had he not reflected that she was then removing far from him, and that it must be a long, long time ere he could behold her again.— Phedora on her side was not wanting in melancholy reflections, and the conversation often dropped, whilst they mutually indulged a mournful reverie. At length Lumerski insensibly drawn from the contemplation of his own chagrin by benevolence, endeavored to amuse the mind of his fair companion by giving a slight account of himself.

He informed her that he had quitted the regiment Colonel Rimbach commanded, a
short

short time after he had been compelled to leave the village she inhabited.—“ I confess,” added Lumerski, “ I could not forgive him for sending me abruptly upon a disagreeable service, in a season so rigorous as that in which I left you last winter, when his only motive as I then thought was caprice ; but I now suspect it was of a baser hue :— I therefore exchanged as soon as I had recovered from a severe indisposition, the effect of fatigue and cold : I always found it impossible however, to convey to the good Mr. Leuhaupt any intelligence of my fate, as I was immediately ordered to Novogorod.”

He then questioned her as to her length of stay at Dorpt, and if Rectzizi had passed much time at the lodgings of her friends the Ste-naus : and when Phedora had satisfied these enquiries, he again resumed the conversation, by asking how Catherine had supported the forced absence of her brother.

“ Ah

“ Ah poor Ivan !” exclaimed Phedora ; his sister was indeed afflicted ; but Mrs. Leuhaupt required all our exertions, and we tried to bury our own grief that we might soothe hers.”--Lumerski here uttered a half-smothered invective against Colonel Rimbach, and they both sunk into a thoughtful silence.

END OF VOL. I.

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CRITICAL REVIEW.